

THE TIMES
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John Parker celebrates
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Prices and
jobs outlook
improves

New figures from the Department of Employment indicate a brighter outlook for both jobs and prices. They reveal an inflation rate of 5.2 per cent for the year to the end of March and that employment rose at an increasing pace during the last months of 1983.

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Strike threat
to GCE pupils

Peace hopes in the teachers' pay dispute have faded increasing the risk of disruption to pupils' final preparations for GCE examinations next term.

After the employers' refusal over arbitration, the unions' conferences at Easter are expected to call for extended strikes.

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Gielgud is 80

Sir John Gielgud, who celebrates his eightieth birthday tomorrow, was given a party on the Old Vic stage where he made his acting debut 63 years ago.

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Whitehouse win

The Independent Broadcasting Authority was criticized in the Court of Appeal for screening *Now*, a film about life in a hospital, after a complaint by Mrs Mary Whitehouse.

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Britain pitied

Commonwealth Caribbean countries have reacted more in sorrow than in anger to British lethargy over the Grenada crisis, last October.

Page 6

House boom

With mortgage funds freely available, building societies expect an Easter housebuying spree and are predicting price rises of 1.2 per cent this year.

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Swap offer

Swapo is ready to sign a ceasefire in Namibia with Pretoria provided this is the first step towards the territory's independence.

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Easter recess

The Commons rose for their Easter recess yesterday and will return on Wednesday, April 25.

Rolls loss

Rolls-Royce, the aeroengine manufacturer, made a net loss of £118m last year and expects more redundancies among its 28,000 employees.

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Classic trial

Mahogany, favourite for next month's 1000 Guineas at Newmarket, strengthened her classic claims with an impressive trial win at Newbury.

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Letter page 9
Letters: On ships at war, from Professor Sir R. Mason; exam levels, from Mr L. Norcross, and Mr B. Page; the Constitution, from Sir J. Colville.
Leading articles: Iran. Criminal Law Committee, Zola Budd.

Features, page 8
Making a mountain out of a molehill. David Nicholson-Lord on green and pleasant Liverpool. Going... going... Geraldine Norman on the art treasure drain. Anthony Parsons on the empire's minor gems.

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Dr Ralph Lapwood, Miss Jon Godden.

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Defy your union, MacGregor challenges miners

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Mr Ian MacGregor, the National Coal Board chairman, appealed to miners yesterday to defy their union and resume work on Monday while warning them that the board and the Government were prepared to sit out the pits strike until the autumn if necessary.

His challenge to the National Union of Mineworkers was linked with a claim that the union executive's decision against a national ballot had prevented its system of democracy from working.

He said the board would take no early initiatives and indicated that the industry's leaders are hoping for a steady drift back to work before next Thursday's union delegate conference, which will decide whether to reduce from 55 per cent to a simple overall majority the vote needed in a ballot to call a national strike.

Mr MacGregor described that act as "indicating some kind of desperation that they have to move the goal posts to make it easier to score". Coal board executives have not abandoned hope that the rule change will be deflected by moderate areas although they accepted that the left had a strong grip on the conference.

Board officials said the increase in the number of miners reporting for work, up from 22,000 two weeks ago to

45,000 yesterday, indicated an increasing mood for a return to work.

However, the number of pits on strike or picketed out has dropped during the same period by only nine to 121 yesterday and that figure represented no improvement on the figure of Friday last week.

Mr MacGregor, replying to claims by Mr Arthur Scargill, the union's president, that the board was refusing to negotiate, said the union had broken off talks.

He understood that Mr Scargill, Mr Michael McGahey, vice-president, and Mr Peter Heathfield, general secretary, had refused to attend an industry consultative meeting due next Tuesday.

Mr MacGregor said: "The board believe that now they have been denied the chance of an early ballot, there are more men in other places who will want to return to work. We want to make it clear that all pits will be open for work on Monday and will remain open."

"We want the maximum number of our employees to have the chance to earn money as the holiday season approaches."

A long stoppage in the industry would cause "irreparable" damage, and he warned that many pits may not be able

to reopen after a prolonged strike.

Mr MacGregor said: "The electricity industry has other fuels available to it and at the present reduced rate of consumption has enough coal in stock to last well into the autumn. Our own stocks stand at well over 21 million tonnes."

Officials would not indicate how many pits might not reopen after a long closure and Mr MacGregor refused to reveal new figures on the five-week strike's financial impact on the industry although losses are now well over the £200m which the board estimated the action had cost up to the end of last month.

The board said miners' lost earnings through the strike and the overtime ban now amounted to £150m and would increase at the rate of £19m a week.

Mr David Owen, Chief Constable of North Wales, confirmed yesterday that he had authorized the use of plain clothes detectives on picket lines but denied they were being used as agents provocateurs.

He said: "If I get a brick thrown from the back of the crowd and one of my officers is injured, I must have at least a reasonable chance of finding out who threw it."

Kinnock campaign, page 2



Missiles critic escapes a rocket

By Anthony Bevins
Political Correspondent

Conservative MPs were yesterday counting Friday the 13th as a lucky day for Mr Alan Clark, the forthright Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Employment.

Mr Clark had publicly cast doubt on the Government's decision to buy the £130m American Harpoon surface-to-surface naval missile system during the BBC Television Question Time programme on Thursday night.

The strength of his remarks contrasted markedly with the restraint shown by a number of Conservative backbenchers in the Commons earlier who, in spite of acute constituency interest, had managed to confine themselves to disappointment that McDonnell Douglas had been preferred to British Aerospace's Sea Eagle system.

Whitehall sources said yesterday that Mr Clark would not even be carpenter for comments which he had himself described as "slightly treasonable".

Mr Clark, who yesterday celebrated his 56th birthday, was in the Commons to reply to two separate debates before the House broke for its Easter recess, but he did all he could to maintain a low profile.

He had said on television that he regretted the tendency for high technology weapons to be bought in from the US.

Mr Roy Grantham, general secretary of the white-collar union Apex, called on Mr Michael Heseltine to resign as Secretary of State for Defence because of the Government's decision to buy the Harpoon system (Our defence Correspondent writes).

He said that the decision not to develop a ship-launched version of Sea Eagle would do enormous damage to British exports.

"At least half our expected export orders of Sea Eagle will now be lost as a consequence, amounting to about 750 missiles worth five times the present contract. As a result thousands of jobs that would have been created will no longer be available to this country," Mr Grantham said.

Letters, page 9



Feet first: Princess Anne's daughter Miss Zara Phillips, who will be three next month, found it easy to be distracted from the competition at the Badminton Horse Trials yesterday. She spent much of the time ignoring the Olympic contenders on view and preferred to concentrate on the outside hooves of the Whitehead dray horses.

terday. She spent much of the time ignoring the Olympic contenders on view and preferred to concentrate on the outside hooves of the Whitehead dray horses.

Full ban on DDT begins in October

By Robin Young

The Ministry of Agriculture is banning the sale and use of DDT pesticide from October 1. This follows the discovery of significant levels of DDT in one tenth of the samples of apples, mushrooms, lettuce, cabbage and Brussels sprouts tested in a survey last year.

A ministry spokesman said yesterday that although the levels of the chemical were all well within prescribed safety limits, the discovery of any DDT had been surprising since its use has been narrowly restricted in Britain for the past decade.

The possibility of banning DDT was first raised in the early 1960s after the publication of Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring*. Manufacturers and suppliers have now been advised by the Ministry that all use of the pesticide must end by October.

The Association of Public Analysts, which carried out the survey for the ministry, had claimed that the results proved that the voluntary scheme restricting the use of DDT had not been working effectively.

In routine checks of fruit and vegetables for other pesticides, residues were found last year in one third of all the samples taken. The level of residue was regarded as significant in one seventh.

The ministry expressed satisfaction that residue levels were generally low, but the association said that the results proved the need for continued sampling to ensure compliance with the voluntary Pesticide Safety Precautions Scheme.

The association also pointed out that organically grown foods were as likely to contain pesticide residues as other foods.

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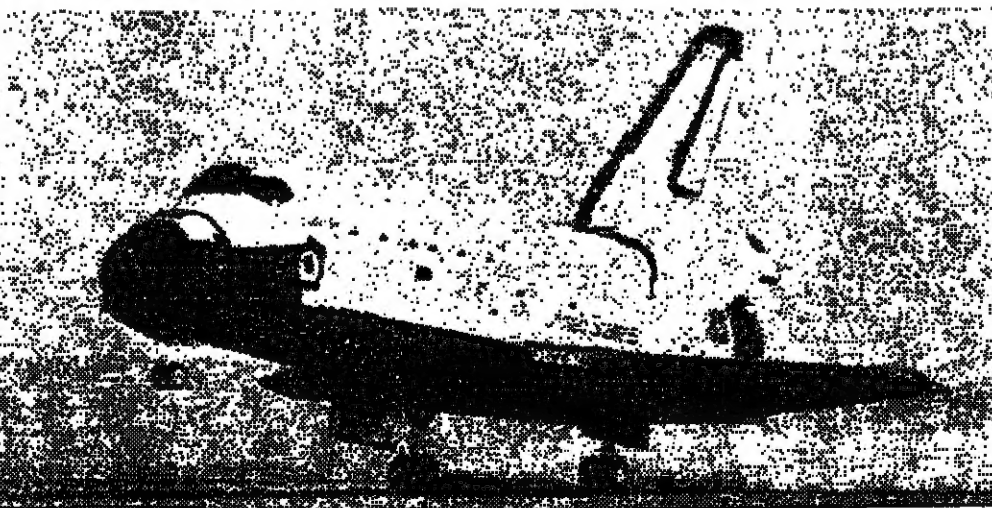
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Successful shuttle comes home



The space shuttle Challenger landing at Edwards Air Force Base in California yesterday after being diverted from Cape Canaveral because of low cloud over Florida.

The five-man crew of the craft emerged blinking and smiling in the sunshine of the Californian dawn at the end of their successful space repair mission (Trevor Fishlock writes).

They quickly recovered their "earth legs" after seven days and eleven minutes in the weightlessness of space and made a quick walk-round

inspection of Challenger before going off for a routine medical examination.

Poor weather at Cape Canaveral forced Mission Control in Houston to order Challenger to land on the desert airstrip at Edwards Air Force Base, California, just after sunrise.

With Captain Robert Crippen, the commander, at the controls, the 100-ton Challenger glided in for a perfect landing, touching down at 286 mph at 5.38 am local time (2.38 pm BST).

Challenger was the eleventh

shuttle mission since shuttle flights started in 1981. It marked an important step forward, showing the shuttle's ability to carry out repair, construction and resupply work in space. Many satellites are now being designed so that they can be serviced by shuttle-borne repair crews and have their operational lives extended considerably.

Meanwhile, the next shuttle flight, to be made by the spacecraft Discovery, is scheduled to leave Cape Canaveral on June 19.

'Fantasy world' trickster who posed as surgeon jailed after operating on patients

A man who had posed as a surgeon, aristocrat, pop guitarist and ballet dancer was "brought back from the dead" after a recent prison suicide attempt, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Dominic Simon, aged 22, of Digby Crescent, Finsbury Park, London, admitted 45 offences including posing as a doctor and assaulting two patients, theft, fraud and deception. He was jailed for five years.

One of the patients, a woman at the University College Hospital, was said to have become terrified as he struggled to put a blood transfusion drip needle into her.

Mr Philip King, for the defence, told the court that Simon hanged himself in his cell and was "dead" when discovered. He had been brought back to life and had since been under 24-hour guard with medical care.

Simon was before the court

last October when he admitted posing as a doctor at nine leading London hospitals which he was said to have infiltrated with alarming ease. He performed several operations, stole from doctors and surgeons and put 10 silences in a patient's head wound.

Mr Graham Boal, for the prosecution, said that after walking out of a psychiatric hospital where he had been sent for assessment, he swindled two motor companies into parting with a £14,000 Porsche and a £45,000 Rolls-Royce, while posing as a dancer and as the grandson of Lord Forie.

He dumped the cars after they had been damaged. The police caught up with him but he tricked them into granting him bail.

After staying with a family in Surrey over Christmas, again using a false identity, he travelled to Devon with a girl aged 16 who had become

"infatuated" with him and stole a puppy for her.

Arrested again, Simon escaped through a police station window. He took the identity of Dr Belmont claiming to be the son of Lord Belmont and maintained that he was a brain surgeon.

The court was told that he was finally arrested in January when he gatecrashed a party at a nightclub. Posing as Sir Charles Fortie's grandson he ran up a bill for four bottles of champagne, costing £55 each, one of which he sent to another guest, Koo Siark. He was penniless at the time.

Judge Lowry told Simon that living in a fantasy world he "cunningly and persistently" turned to crime. He had rejected leniency in the past.

"It is essential that you face reality," she added. "You have the ability not only to live in a fantasy world but to persuade others that the world exists, and now you must change."

Designer loses to Mothercare

A mother who designed a rain cape to protect her baby from the Scottish Highland weather lost a High Court copyright action against the Mothercare chain yesterday.

Mr Justice Walton said the cape which Mrs Gillian Merlet made in 1980 was "brilliantly simple". The British market, had seen nothing like it before. However, it was not a "work of artistic craftsmanship" within the protection of the Copyright Act.

Mrs Merlet, who lives with her French husband in Paris, had an "inventive turn of mind" and had always been interested in clothing and designing for babies.

One summer she had the idea for a cape for her baby when she visited her mother in Scotland.

The prototype, which she made on a domestic sewing machine, had been well used but was still in remarkably fine condition and there could be no doubt the originality of the idea.

Mrs Merlet thought she had invented a garment which was a success. She put cutting plans on paper and they fitted the babies of cloth "like a dream".

Her cape, which she called the "Raincoat", was produced at the Ladybird factory in Scotland and appeared to have been a "great success".

One of the garments reached Mothercare, which copied it, calling this version the "Carry Cape".

The judge said, however, that for Mrs Merlet to have any copyright on her cape it must

fall within the classification of works of artistic craftsmanship.

That was a difficult concept which had led to varying views in the House of Lords the object under consideration must have an artistic appeal in itself and it must be the makers' intention to create a work of art.

In creating her "Raincoat" Mrs Merlet did not have in mind the creation of a work of art in any shape or form.

The judge said: "What she had in mind was the utilitarian intention of creating a barrier between her baby and the rigours of the Highland climate."

Mrs Merlet must pay Mothercare's costs of the three-day action.

Sir John Gielgud, 80 today, returns to centre stage

By John Witherow

Sir John Gielgud, looking slightly embarrassed by all the fuss, took a mere five puffs to blow out the 80 candles on his birthday cake yesterday on the Old Vic stage where he made his acting debut 63 years ago.

So large was the edifice of icing and marzipan that it required Superman, in the form of Christopher Reeve, to haul it on to the stage before an audience liberally sprinkled with some of the most famous names in British theatre.

Sir John, looking remarkable fit and speaking in that voice which one critic described as "all cello and woodwind", said he intended to spend his birthday today answering letters from "hordes of well-wishers".

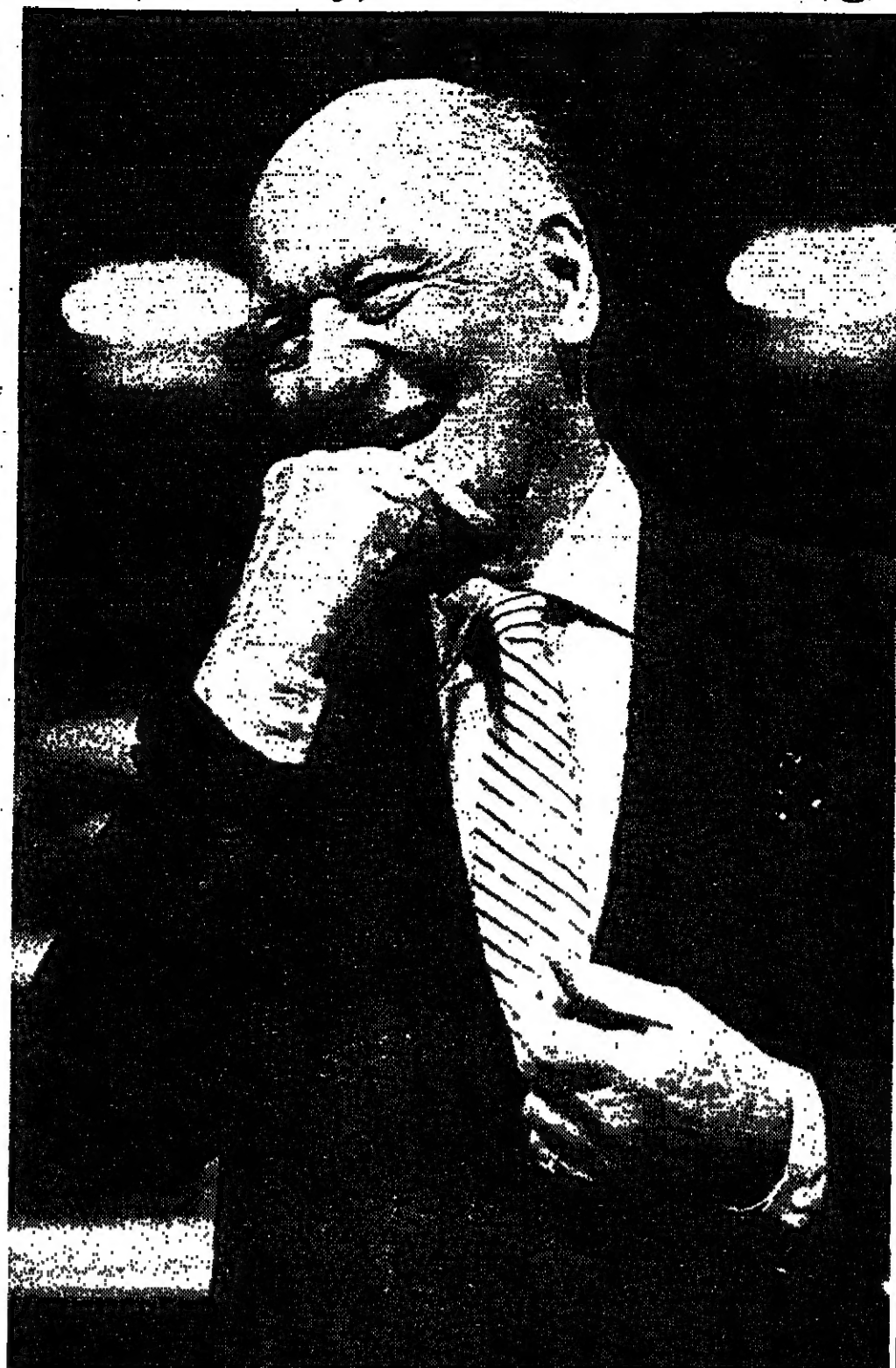
It was an occasion full of nostalgia for one of the foremost knights of the theatre. Not only was the Old Vic the first theatre where he trod the boards as a herald in *Henry V*, but it was also the scene of many of his finest performances.

Among those was his Hamlet, considered by many to be the finest this century. The theatre also witnessed his superb Romeo and an unsurpassable Prospero in *The Tempest*. By 1930, at the age of 26, he was regarded as a prodigy and the Old Vic was the temple where his fans went to worship.

Looking round at the refurbished building, he recalled how he had shared a dressing room with Sir Ralph Richardson which was full of rubbish. Sir Ralph had leaned forward and said: "Isn't this wonderful? This is real theatre."

Yesterday's occasion, Sir John said, "was an unexpected bonus to a wonderful life and a very happy career. I've been enormously spoilt, really only because I've managed to survive. I have very little to offer at the moment, but I hope one day I might."

After cutting the cake Sir John retired to the dress circle, where he sipped a glass of champagne and looked down at such actors and actresses as Edward Fox, Glenda Jackson, Trevor Howard and Derek Nimmo who had come to pay their respects.



Government to step up drink-drive campaign

The Government is to step up its campaign against drink-driving by attempting to change public attitudes, especially among young people.

A new leaflet from the Transport and Road Research Laboratory detailing how alcohol affects driving capacity is to be given national circulation Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State in the Department of Transport, disclosed yesterday.

Campaigns similar to those at Christmas may be mounted at other times of the year such as spring, when drink-driving is just as great, she told the International Alcohol Conference in Liverpool.

Mrs Chalker ruled out new regulations and police measures against drink-driving, although the offence had resumed its rising trend after the initial impact of the breath test.

"The fundamental problem we face in countering drinking and driving is that all too many people - most of them responsible law-abiding citizens in every other respect - regard it as perfectly normal and reasonable to take the wheel of a car after drinking significant quantities of alcohol."

Drink caused more than 1,000 deaths on Britain's roads last year. More than a third of all drivers killed, and two-thirds of those killed after 10pm on Fridays and Saturdays, had excess alcohol in their blood.

Deputy Speaker fined £80

The Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, Mr Ernest Armstrong, was fined £80 at St Neots, Cambridgeshire, yesterday for careless driving and had three penalty points put on his licence.

Mr Armstrong, aged 69, Labour MP for Durham North-west, had skidded into a car on the A1 because he did not see vehicles ahead braking until too late.

Attacks on doctors to be investigated

An investigation into attacks by patients on doctors, nurses and other National Health Service staff has been launched by the Health Services Advisory Committee.

The inquiry follows a survey by the British Medical Association which found that 70 doctors had been victims of violent assaults in a 12-month period.

One doctor was nearly strangled with his own tie, another was thrown downstairs and a third was attacked by a patient with a knife. Violence erupted in some cases when doctors refused to give drugs to addicts.

Doctors were also attacked by

drunken patients in casualty departments and by mentally disturbed patients in psychiatric wards.

Dr Frank Well, a member of the committee's working party, said: "We want to get doctors to let us know about any incidents that have come to their attention."

"At the moment we still have no real estimate of the number of attacks and threatened attacks that occur. We know, however, that when some doctors' receptionists are threatened by patients they are off work for the next six weeks because they are too frightened to return."

Creditors ask Bob Hope to repay £100,000

Bob Hope, the American comedian, is being asked to repay more than £100,000 to the company that ran his £1m charity golf classic.

A chartered accountant, Mr David Buchler, whose partner was appointed liquidator of Febbs Management, said after a creditors' meeting yesterday: "Discussions are taking place with Mr Hope to see if he might feel any obligation to give something back. He received well over £100,000."

The Official Receiver, Mr Geoffrey Gillvray, said creditors have claims of £392,000. The company has assets of about £50,000. Mr Buchler insisted later, however, that when all creditors are considered debts will be more than £500,000.

Creditors were told the

company was formed in November 1979 to promote leisure and sport to help charities.

In the first two years the Bob Hope British Golf Classic lost more than £415,000 but the 1982 and 1983 events made profits totalling £117,000.

Mr Gillvray said: "A magazine article in November 1983, which reported that creditors were not being paid and that the company was days away from receivership, caused great unrest and dissatisfaction."

Backers who had been negotiating to finance the tournament lost interest. A creditors' meeting was called under voluntary winding-up proceedings but one creditor wanted the Official Receiver to investigate and obtained a High Court winding-up order.

Retirement age fight

A woman dismissed at 60 by a multinational company may appeal to the European Court in an attempt to secure the right of women to work over that age.

A claim for unfair treatment by Mrs Peggy Duke against Reliance Systems, part of the GEC group, was rejected yesterday by an industrial tribunal in Bedford. But Mrs Duke, of north-west London, backed by the Equal Opportunities

Commission, intends to pursue her case at the Employment Appeals Tribunal and the European Court.

She was a clerk at Reliance Systems in Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, until she was dismissed despite her wish to work on to support her disabled husband. A commission spokesman said: "This is an important test case which could force a change in the domestic law."

Parcel theft postman sent to jail

A postman who hoarded parcels containing goods valued at tens of thousands of pounds was jailed for three years yesterday.

Douglas McKenzie, aged 50, of Summerhill Road, Glasgow, committed the thefts over 10 years and the High Court in Edinburgh was told it would be difficult to trace the owners.

The goods found by Post Office investigators, who caught McKenzie after setting a trap with a test parcel, include 314 watches, 61 cameras and 102 clocks. It took four vans to carry away 227 cardboard boxes filled with the items.

The Post Office is to auction the stolen items and the cash raised - expected to be thousands of pounds - will go to charity.

The judge, Lord Stott said: "It is a very curious crime and suggests that there must be something very curious about the man who committed it."

Mr Hamish Stirling, for the defence, said McKenzie was "an introverted, solitary and lonely man" who had devoted his life to looking after his invalid mother.

No damages for boy who took insulin overdose

A diabetic boy who suffered brain damage after deliberately injecting himself with an overdose of insulin at Great Ormond Street Hospital, London, when he was aged 10, was not entitled to damages, a High Court judge ruled yesterday.

Stewart Johnston, now aged 19, took the overdose not because he intended to take his own life; but because of a desire to attract attention and probably to emulate an older boy he admired, who died soon after the incident, Mr Justice Glidewell said.

The effects on Stewart of the incident on January 24, 1976, have been nothing short of catastrophic, the judge said.

But the judge dismissed a negligence action brought by Mrs Mary Johnston, of Boworth Close, Hawkeley, Hockley, Essex, against the hospital's board of governors.

The wording of the "territorial condition", restricting area where a firearm may be used, is to be standardized for all certificate holders who are not thought to merit an open certificate.

Mr Brittan said that considerable savings should result from the new system. "In the main, the working party's proposals are not radical. Its recommendations are generally based on best current police practice."

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Mr L. Self-employed quantity surveyor, Wrexham. Aged 42.
Mr L. would pay £70 (£49 net with tax relief at 30%) a month

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Mr D. Retired Plumber, Durham City. Aged 70.
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35. I am a resident of the United Kingdom for probate fees purposes.

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TV victory for Whitehouse as judges rebuke IBA on 'Scum'

The Independent Broadcasting Authority was criticised in the Court of Appeal yesterday over the screening of the controversial film *Scum* about life in a boys' school.

Mr John Whitney, director-general of the IBA, made a "grave error of judgment" in making a personal decision to show the film without referring it to the authority.

It had been taken to court by Mrs Mary Whitehouse, the television campaigner, who said later she was happy at the decision and thought Mr Whitney, "might like to reconsider his role".

Lord Justice Watkins said it was "outstandingly important that so powerful a thing in our lives as television be carefully controlled. If those empowered by Parliament to control it were to fail in their duties, albeit unwittingly and unintentionally, much harm could be done."

He would have opposed the showing of *Scum*, screened on Channel 4 at 11pm on June 10 last year. "It is, I think, gratuitously offensive and revolting without the slightest attempt to introduce any element of fairness or make any attempt to provide a balanced view of the school."

But Mr Justice Taylor, his fellow judge in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court, said he would have allowed it to be shown.

He said: "There can be no doubt that both the language and content of the film were shocking. But it is possible for a programme to shock without falling foul of the 1981 Broadcasting Act."

The film had and "honest and sincere" purpose and he did not agree with Mrs Whitehouse that it included violence for its own sake. But he agreed that, with such a "highly controversial film" which had been rejected by the BBC and had been shown in the cinema with an X-certificate, there was a need for "anxious consideration" before showing it.

They jointly gave Mrs Whitehouse a declaration that, having regard to the IBA's statutory duties and the history of divergent opinion about the film, the director-general committed a grave error of judgment in not referring it to the IBA.

The IBA itself was in breach of its duty in not instructing the director-general in what circumstances programmes ought to be referred to it in failing to see *Scum* before it was shown.

Lord Justice Watkins said that only a very odd person could describe *Scum* as entertainment. It was important to emphasize the need to refer highly controversial programmes to the IBA.

He said that Mrs Whitehouse, president of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association, had sufficient interest as a licence holder to seek her declaration. They awarded her costs.

She said afterwards: "My position has been clearly vindicated. The verdict underlines the rights of an ordinary citizen to question the standards of our television programmes."

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Labour gets 39% lead in Scots poll

From Ronald Faux, Edinburgh

One of the sharpest swings in public opinion towards the Labour Party in Scotland on record was reflected in a poll published yesterday. A 39 per cent lead for Labour over the Conservatives, with the Alliance and the SNP barely in double figures, has boosted Labour's hopes for the Scottish district elections in three weeks' time.

Labour already controls 26 of the 52 district councils in Scotland; if the latest swing were achieved councils which would go to Labour would include Edinburgh.

The poll, by System Three for the *Glasgow Herald*, puts Labour 17 points ahead of the combined total of its three main opponents.

The question "If there were a general election tomorrow, which party would you vote for?" was put to the sample shortly after the Budget which contained some measures that met with particular hostility in Scotland. Valued-added tax on take-away meals, the future of the Scott Lithgow shipyard, rate capping and the issue of GCHQ and its effect on trade unions could all have contributed towards a swing to Labour. The poll was based on 987 adults in 38 constituencies.

Figures include the undecided, those who refused to answer or would not vote.

Editors warned against publicizing empty homes

Newspapers should be cautious in publishing anything which reveals that a house is likely to be unoccupied and therefore at risk, the Press Council said yesterday.

The council also recommended editors to emphasize to reporters and other staff without authority to give undertakings about what will or will not be published that they should make this clear if asked.

A complaint that the *Yorkshire Evening Press* broke an undertaking not to publish that a couple were on holiday, thus leading to a burglary risk at their home, was upheld.

Newbold Kay & Sons, York solicitors, complained to the council on behalf of Mr and Mrs R. Hodgson, of Rawcliffe Lane, York.

The newspaper published a report of a car crash outside their home the day after they had gone on holiday to Spain. It quoted their son, Christopher, aged 18, a college student, and mentioned that his parents were away.

The solicitors told the editor that a neighbour, Mrs A. Dawson, telephoned the newspaper for an assurance that the Hodgsons' absence would not be publicized.

She spoke to a reporter, Miss Susan Braine, who replied that she could not make the decision - but, having spoken to someone else in the office, she assured Mrs Dawson that the

Party killer jailed for five years

A man who shot two people after being provoked by noise from their four-day party was jailed for five years yesterday.

At Birmingham Crown Court William McCall, aged 34, was found guilty of manslaughter and wounding and cleared of murder and attempted murder.

Mr Anthony Palmer, QC, for the prosecution, said that after three sleepless nights McCall left his home in Balsall Heath, Birmingham, in the early hours and fired two revolver shots into a room crowded with party goers at a maisonette in a neighbouring street, shouting "You have driven me to the limit". He told the police when arrested that he just wanted to stop the noise.

Mr Christopher Williams, aged 30, died when a bullet lodged in his brain.

The medieval drama is staged every four years with a professional actor as Christ and local people in other parts.

Star of Bethlehem: Simon Ward will play Christ in the York mystery plays at St Mary's Abbey from June 8 to July 2.

The medieval drama is staged every four years with a professional actor as Christ and local people in other parts.

Nicaraguan rebels launch two-pronged offensive

Contras claim 2,000 Sandinistas under siege

From Alan Tomlinson, Tegucigalpa

American-backed counter-revolutionary forces have launched a big offensive involving up to 8,000 men against Sandinista Army positions in Northern and Central Nicaragua.

Fighting is reported to be heavy in a number of areas, including the important garrison towns of Waslala, 60 miles inside the country on the boundary between Matagalpa and Zelaya Norte departments, and at Rio Blanco, 25 miles

deeper into Matagalpa, at the geographical centre of Nicaragua.

This is the first time in 18 months of guerrilla warfare launched from camps along the Honduran border that the main "contra" group, the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), has been able to sustain large scale, coordinated assaults on strictly military targets in the heart of Nicaragua.

Previous offensives have been characterized by hit-and-run raids in areas nearer the

border. But by late March FDN columns, some of which had marched for three weeks over the mountains, were in a position to launch a concerted offensive against Waslala and Rio Blanco, the two main Sandinista garrisons in the region.

They began their assault on April 3 and 4, first picking off smaller satellite garrisons around Waslala. Señor Edgar Chamorro, a member of the FDN's four-man directorate, said the garrisons at Yacaca, Dada and Khalil had been

overrun. 260 Government troops killed or wounded, three bridges blown up and several army lorries destroyed.

He said an estimated 2,000 Sandinista troops were isolated and under siege in Waslala itself, a strategically important town with controls access to the Sinau goldmine and Puerto Cabezas on the east coast.

Simultaneously, another large force of Sandinistas positions around Rio Blanco, although the main garrison had not yet come under attack. Coordinated assaults have

also been launched near the border town of Ocotal in Nueva Segovia province. Pueblo Nuevo and Condega in Estelí, Ciudad Antigua and Delbancá in Madriz and Cerro Helado near Jinotega, where sources in Nicaragua confirmed FDN claims that two Sandinista helicopters had been shot down.

A measure of the Nicaraguan Government's concern was a rare press conference in Managua, at which the Army Chief of Staff, Comandante Joaquín, described the offensive as the

largest yet launched by the

contras. In the past, the Sandinistas have tended to play down the effectiveness.

MANAGUA: Nicaraguan troops were holding off a rebel attack on the Atlantic part of San Juan del Norte a few miles from the Costa Rican border and had inflicted heavy casualties on the insurgents, a military spokesman said yesterday (Reuters reports).

He dismissed claims by the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (Arde) that the party had been captured.

House joins Senate in denouncing CIA mining operation

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

In a continuing congressional revolt, the House of Representatives has condemned American participation in the mining of harbours in Nicaragua by 281 votes to 111.

But the Reagan Administration, while it had ended involvement in the mining operations, is still determined to support guerrillas in Nicaragua.

Senior White House sources said yesterday that the operations arm of the CIA, which oversees the secret war against the Sandinista Government in Managua, had been notified that money for the mining programme could run out next week, or as soon as tomorrow.

Nicaragua claims that the mines have damaged at least seven ships from five nations in the past month.

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The House debate was frequently bitter. Several Democrats accused the Administration of violating international law by supporting a group engaged in an attempt to overthrow a foreign government. The American Society of International Law, whose members include prominent lawyers and international law experts, yesterday deplored the US effort to withdraw its actions in Central America from the jurisdiction of the world court.

Although it has stopped in mining, the Administration is continuing to press legislation for another \$21m (about £14.5m) to continue the larger programme of American aid to the rebels until the summer.

The legislation has been approved by the Senate but is heading for stiff opposition in the Democrat-controlled House.

Contenders for the Democratic presidential nomination are among the harshest critics of Mr Reagan's Central America policies. The Rev Jesse Jackson said: "If an act of war is taking place without the consent of Congress, it is surely an impeachable offence." Mr Walter Mondale said: "America could be involved in full-scale war."

El Salvador has entered a period of limbo. As the chaotic, inconclusive presidential elections of March 25 recede into the distance, the campaign for the decisive run-off vote on May 6 between Señor José Napoleón Duarte and Major Roberto D'Aubuisson is being met with a yawn, at best, by most Salvadorans. Irritated by the reemergence of their radios and televisions of the tediously familiar political party slogans, songs and admonitions.

In the background the civil war continues, at the same quiet pace that has characterized encounters this year between the Army and left-wing rebels, with the rebels inflicting most of the damage. Whatever political activity is going on is being conducted strictly behind closed doors.

Among those whose interest in the election remains high - US diplomats, academics, reporters - speculation is rife about possible political alliances.

Attention is focusing mainly on the right-wing National Conciliation Party (PCN), which came third in the first round, with 19 per cent of the vote. That is enough, in theory, to tip the balance in favour of Major D'Aubuisson in the run-off, on the assumption that the smaller right-wing parties will naturally side with him.

Major D'Aubuisson got 29 per cent of the vote on March 25 to Señor Duarte's 43 per cent.

Will the PCN's jovial leader, Señor Francisco Guerrero, throw his weight behind Major D'Aubuisson? Or will he take

over as the right's presidential candidate? Will he support Señor Duarte, even? These are the questions animating the political scene in El Salvador, but Señor Guerrero, a veteran politician, is keeping his cards close to his chest.

Bargaining is going on, however, as Señor Duarte has confirmed. The few eaks that have come out of a series of recent heavily-guarded meetings between the parties indicate that Señor Guerrero will not make a public pronouncement, but will tacitly side with Señor Duarte, the man almost everyone assumes will win the run-off.

Political sources have suggested that Señor Duarte has won over the PCN with an offer of Cabinet positions.

The possibility of Señor Guerrero becoming the right's candidate is remote as it would require an amendment to the electoral law. But the idea has been gathering speed lately, and major D'Aubuisson felt obliged

to announce that he would accept such an amendment.

Three days after the TV programme, Señor Blando gave a news conference at Archbishop Romero's tomb. In San Salvador Cathedral, in which he denied Arena's accusations.

Señor Lobos, who was allegedly linked with the assassination plot, named and unemployed teacher, Miguel Antonio Blandino, aged 28, as the killer.

Allegations that he ordered the killing of the Archbishop of San Salvador, Monsignor Oscar Romero, four years ago, have dogged Major D'Aubuisson's footsteps ever since he entered politics in August 1981 as the head of the newly-formed arena.

The official US view, for example, is that the allegations are backed up by "compelling" evidence. A week before the last elections Major D'Aubuisson purported to offer public proof that he had no connexion with the assassination. A TV programme on March 18, sponsored by Arena, showed a man called Pedro Lobos naming the killer, and saying that the assassination had been planned by Señor commanders of the rebel Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front.

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Lorraine steelworkers march on Paris to protest against job cuts

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Promises to pour more aid into Lorraine than any other, hard-hit area failed to deter local steel workers from descending in force on Paris yesterday to protest against the Government's plans to shed about 10,000 steel jobs in Lorraine as part of its reconstruction of the ailing industry. An estimated 35,000 workers marched from La Nation to the Champs de Mars, behind the Eiffel Tower (which was built with Lorraine steel), preceded by a 20ft. red-painted, double-barred Cross of Lorraine, bearing the emblems of all six main unions who had organized the march.

M. Georges Marchais, the Communist Party leader who had earlier indicated that he would not take part in the demonstration, changed his mind at the last minute, explaining carefully and in typical "double-talk" that his presence on the march was not intended as "an act of hostility against the Government in which we are participating", but rather as a way of underlining the need for negotiations "to find a better solution for the steel industry".

The Communists have put forward their own plan for restructuring the industry which would not involve the closure of any plants, and would lead to an increase in production from

17.5 million tons last year to 21 million tons by 1986. The Government's plans involve a decrease in production and a loss of between 25,000 and 30,000 jobs by 1987.

Whatever M. Marchais's explanations, his decision to take part in the march with M. Andre Lajoinie, leader of the Communist group in Parliament, at his side, will be seen as a further act of defiance against the Government, particularly as it comes soon after President Mitterrand's warning at his press conference last week that "a new situation" has been created by the escalation of the Communist Party's criticisms, and that the time had now come "to clarify matters".

There was much violence when the steel workers last marched *en masse* on Paris almost exactly five years ago, after M. Raymond Barre, then Prime Minister, had announced plans to shed 25,000 jobs. The police were therefore trying to keep a low profile to avoid provoking clashes with the demonstrators.

The unions, which had laid an impressive policing service of their own, were also anxious to avoid violence, but knew that in any such demonstration there was always a hard-core of troublemakers.

Three demonstrators were

arrested shortly before the march began after machetes, iron bars, steel balls, crash helmets and equipment for making petrol bombs had been found in their van. In a separate incident, police also found a tract laying out plans to topple the Eiffel Tower across the Seine and on to the Elysée Palace by burning one of its feet with acid.

Lorraine is to have two of the 15 "industrial conversion zones" which have already been announced in which companies creating new jobs will receive substantial tax benefits. Any worker in the zones losing his job will automatically become eligible for a two-year "retraining leave".

The fact that Lorraine alone is to be privileged in this way has prompted criticism from some of the unions who have said that jobs are needed all over France.

M. Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, admitted earlier this week for the first time that the Government expects unemployment to rise to nearly 2.5 million, or 10 per cent of the working population, by the end of this year. M. Mauroy had previously always promised that the Government would take the necessary measures to keep unemployment at around the two million mark.



Symbol of protest: The steelworkers carry a huge Cross of Lorraine bearing the initials of their unions through the centre of Paris.

Swapo's terms for peace treaty

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Swapo, the South West Africa People's Organization, is ready to sign a ceasefire in Namibia (South West Africa) with Pretoria provided this is the first step towards the territory's independence in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolution 435.

This was stated on Thursday night by Mr Herman Toivo Ja Toivo, the co-founder of Swapo who was released from prison on Robben Island on March 1 four years before the end of a 20-year sentence on terrorism charges. He was speaking at a press conference in Windhoek, the Namibian capital.

Mr Toivo recently returned from a month-long tour of black "frontline" states during which he met African leaders as well as Mr Sam Nujoma, the Swapo president, who directs the guerrilla war against South Africa's occupation of Namibia from exile in Zambia.

"There is no necessity for us and South Africa to sit around the same table for the signing", Mr Toivo said. "They can sign wherever they like. We would sign probably in Luanda (the Angolan capital) or maybe even in Windhoek".

Mr Toivo claimed that Swapo's relations with Angola had not been weakened by the agreement between Angola and South Africa under which South African troops are being withdrawn.

Two police and army major killed in Pamplona

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

Suspected Basque terrorists killed three men in a two-stage attack yesterday, bobby-trapping a getaway car for the first time.

Shortly before dawn two gunmen shot dead a retired army major at a wholesale produce market in the northern city of Pamplona. Then they fled, but left a getaway car in a conspicuous place in front of a school. Two policemen were killed instantly when they opened the bonnet of the car, as an estimated 20-30lb of plastic explosive went off.

The retired officer, Señor Jesús Alcocer, was a businessman and prominent member of the extreme right-wing party, New Force. He had escaped unhurt in two previous terrorist bomb attacks in the past five years, one of them on a shop which he owned and another on his car. Both of those attacks were attributed to the Basque secessionist organization ETA.

The latest killings occurred at about the same time as the Spanish media were reporting the arrest of seven French citizens in Bordeaux and Bayonne, on suspicion of belonging to the shadowy Anti-Terrorist Liberation Groups (GAL), which first appeared last December.

It appears to specialize in killing ETA leaders living in exile in France.

Egyptian paper reprieved

From Our Correspondent, Cairo

A weekly opposition newspaper, *Al Wafd*, returned to the newsstands yesterday after a Cairo civil court ordered the release of copies impounded on Thursday by the Ministry of Interior.

The paper seized for violating reporting restrictions imposed by the Prosecutor-General on a trial of members of the fundamentalist Muslim group, the Jihad, accused by the Government of assassinating President Sadat in October 1981 and attempting to overthrow his regime.

Al Wafd had reported that arms and documents seized in connection with the Jihad case had been stolen from a safe in the court-house where about 300 Jihad members are being tried.

Thursday's issue was the first opposition publication to be impounded since President Mubarak came to power. *Al Wafd* is the organ of the New Wafd Party which recently returned to the political arena and is believed to pose the most serious challenge to the ruling National Democratic Party in May's parliamentary elections.

The official Middle East News Agency quoted an official source as confirming that an investigation was underway concerning the theft "from the safe of the state security court of some evidence concerning a case in which judgment is pending".

Gemayel ignores opponents

From Our Correspondent, Beirut

Despite opposition from Muslim leaders, President Gemayel yesterday began taking steps toward forming a "national coalition" Cabinet. He held a series of meetings with former Lebanese presidents and prime ministers, seeking guidance on nominees for the posts.

His first stop was in the northern city of Batroun, where he met Mr Suleiman Franjeh, a former President and although a Maronite Christian like Mr Gemayel, an ally of the Muslim opposition.

The political manoeuvring came as Lebanon entered its tenth year of civil war. Most Lebanese date the civil war from April 13, 1975. The conflict continued yesterday with uninterrupted exchanges of gunfire along the "green line".

Palace sources indicate that Mr Gemayel is holding to his initial proposal that a new Cabinet is needed to make administrative changes in the Government, while a 32-member committee, called for at the March meeting of Lebanese leaders in the Swiss city of Lausanne, begins work on constitutional reforms.

Mr Walid Jumblatt, the Druze leader and Mr Nabih Berri of the Shia Muslim Amal have consistently rejected this approach, arguing that there must be general agreement among warring factions on political reforms before Cabinet changes

Muslim moderates boycott Iran poll

By Hazhir Teimourian

No dissenting voices will be heard in the next session of Iran's parliament, the Majlis, the 270 members of which are to be elected tomorrow. The Iran Freedom Movement of Mr Mehdi Bazargan, the Islamic Republic's first prime minister, has boycotted the elections on the grounds that it was not allowed to hold meetings and publish its views.

The Freedom Movement is a party of relatively liberal Muslims. It had five members in the outgoing Majlis, including Mr Bazargan and Mr Fakhim Yazdi, his Foreign Minister in 1979.

The two were sometimes physically assaulted by clerical members during televised proceedings of the parliament. Their occasional pleas for the observation of democratic norms were always edited out of parliamentary reports.

With their departure, the Majlis will fall under the complete domination of a number of clerical factions, which vie with one another for the ear of Ayatollah Khomeini by professing complete obedience to his daily broadcast exhortations.

Two months ago, Mr Bazargan sent a telegram to Ayatollah Naeq Noori, the Interior Minister, asking to be allowed to resume the publication of his party's banned newspaper, *Al-Farq*, or to be given access to one of the Government's daily papers for the publication of the party's views.

He received no answer, and the party decided not to put any names forward for election. Mr Bazargan got more than a million votes when elected to the previous Majlis.

The authorities were in a dilemma about their mildest critics, whose presence they had hitherto tolerated. Disillusionment with the revolution and resentment about continuation of the war with Iraq are reported to be widespread. If Mr Bazargan and his colleagues had been allowed to contest the poll unopposed, their probable election would have been interpreted as a vote of censure on the leadership of Ayatollah Khomeini.

Other opposition parties whose activities are banned, have also urged a boycott of the elections.

Leading article, page 9

Press bonds defended

By Richard Dowden

Mauritius claims that the amendment to its press law, forcing newspaper publishers to deposit 250,000 rupees (£13,800) as a bond, will help to improve press standards and create a greater sense of responsibility.

In a statement to the Commonwealth Press Union, Mr Gian Nath, the Mauritian High Commissioner in London, said that newspapers like *Le Populaire* and *Le Militant* had been successfully sued for damages but had simply ceased production without paying. "What is worse," he said, "was

that such newspapers reappear a few months later under different names to indulge the same path."

He said that the deposited security would cover any debts arising from such libel suits and that "grossly slanderous articles would not be published with impunity".

Under the Bill, approved by the Mauritian Parliament on Wednesday, the security must be deposited by July 1. Forty-three journalists were briefly held last week during a demonstration against the Bill.

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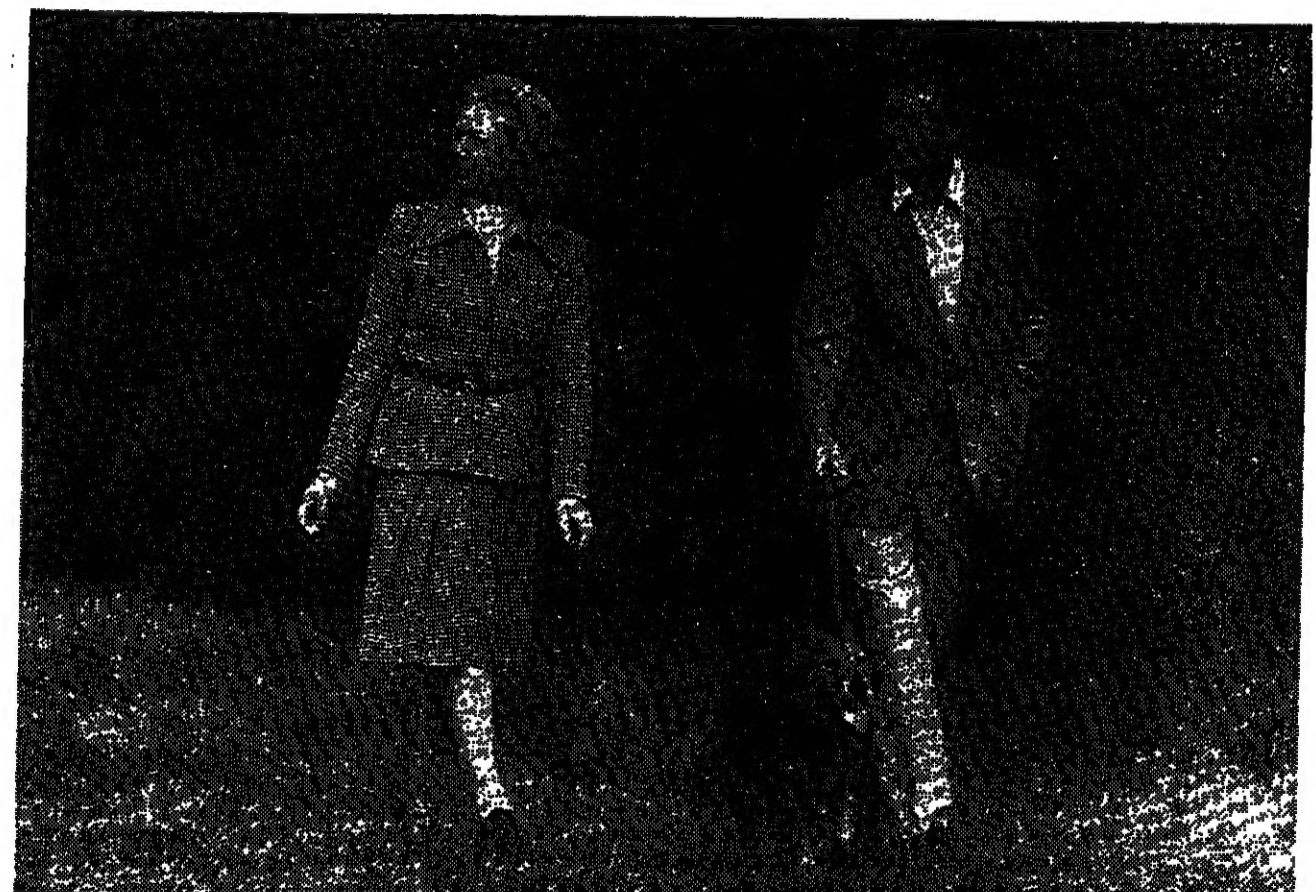
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LA goes overboard for Prince Andrew

From Ivor Davis
Los Angeles

Although technically speaking Prince Andrew's visit to southern California is not an official one, the arrival of the Prince is generating the same kind of media excitement that surrounded last year's visit by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh to the West Coast.

From the moment he steps on to Los Angeles soil tomorrow evening, he will plunge into a crowded four days of non-stop activities. A promotion of Beverly Hills British Fortnight, a fund-raiser for his old school, Gordonstoun, a meeting with the movie stars and another fund-raising event, this time for the British Olympic team.

This function, with tickets selling for £1,000 (£700), \$500 and \$250, will be hosted by Michael Caine, with entertainment provided by Julie Andrews, Sheena Easton, Cleo Laine and John Dankworth.

Many foreign magazines and newspapers are sending representatives. Mr John Hulton, British Vice-Consul in Los Angeles, commented: "We seem to spend a great deal of time telling American TV and newspaper people that Prince Andrew will not give interviews, or appear on TV shows, although he will be available for pictures everywhere he goes."

Nevertheless, the press is gearing up to dog the Prince's footsteps, and he is expected to be given intense exposure on nightly television news shows, with the kind of coverage given to Presidents and superstars.

The Hollywood portion of his trip includes a visit on Tuesday to the set of the new film *2010*, a sequel to Stanley Kubrick's classic *2001: A Space Odyssey*. At Metro Goldwyn Mayer studios he will see a Hollywood-style spaceship, and meet the film's stars, Roy Scheider, John Lithgow and Helen Mirren.

There will be many film personalities, too, on Wednesday at the British Olympic USH Committee's most ambitious fundraiser. The group, established two years ago to raise money for the British team to compete in Los Angeles in July, hopes to have its finest and most lucrative hour.

The Prince is also likely to meet Cary Elwes, one of the screen's two James Bonds, Roger Moore and Sean Connery.

To avoid being accused of mixing only with the rich and famous Prince Andrew is to be taken to a new Hispanic cultural centre at Plaza de la Raza, in the city's Mexican-American district, and then on to visit the black ghetto of Watts, scene of bloody rioting in the sixties.

The American committee for Gordonstoun's golden jubilee has arranged a dinner on Monday night. About 60 Americans, men and women, who have been to the school over the past four years will be there.

As a naval pilot, Prince Andrew will get a chance to see aerospace past, present and future. He will step into the cockpit of the late Howard Hughes' *Spruce Goose*, the largest flying boat ever built, which is now a tourist attraction alongside the old Queen Mary in Long Beach.

He will go to San Diego US Naval Air Station to fly the Navy's newest F-14B helicopter, and fly back to Los Angeles in the new British Aerospace 146 jet, which was recently purchased by the US commuter line, PSA.

There is also a visit to the jet propulsion laboratory in Pasadena, where the Prince will see the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's latest space projects, and then go down the road to the California Institute of Technology to take a look at the Institute's seismological laboratory, which monitors earthquakes in California and around the world.

Indonesian envoy says Papuans expelled him

From Our Correspondent
Jakarta

Indonesia's military attaché in Port Moresby has returned to Jakarta, saying he has been expelled from Papua New Guinea on the eve of sensitive bilateral talks on border problems.

The attaché, Lieutenant-Colonel Ismail, declined to give further details on his arrival at Haining airport, and Foreign Ministry spokesmen, who last week had said that Colonel Ismail might be recalled to prevent his expulsion, refused to say whether he had been recalled or expelled.

The foreign ministers of the two countries, which are separated by an ill-defined 500-mile jungle border on the island of New Guinea, are scheduled to meet tomorrow for their first top-level talks on a series of border incidents in February and March. The most serious, the alleged violation of Papuan airspace by Indonesian F5E fighters on March 27, is expected to top the agenda.

The Indonesians have repeatedly denied that their planes crossed the border.



Cop of the Month: New York's City Police Commissioner Mr Benjamin Ward makes a special award to robot RM3, a mobile investigator which helped overpower two bandits in a shootout.

Chernenko's week, Gorbachov's future

From Richard Owen, Moscow

"The week belonged to Chernenko, but the future belongs to young Gorbachov," one veteran Kremlin watcher said after this week's meetings of the Central Committee and Supreme Soviet.

With the title of President, Mr Chernenko, aged 72, has added international prestige to the real power he already wields as General Secretary of the party. But two months after succeeding Yuri Andropov, Mr Chernenko was unable - or unwilling - to put his own team in place.

The plenum was unusually short, not because Mr Chernenko had it all sewn up but because there were no Politburo changes to discuss. Similarly, there were no changes in the ministerial list presented by the reappointed Prime Minister, Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, except for a new Justice Minister, Mr Boris Kravtsov, and a few minor appointments.

Russia, in other words, is marking time. The formal resignation of the Government at the newly-elected Supreme Soviet provided a suitable occasion for Mr Tikhonov to step down. If Mr Andropov were still alive, Mr Tikhonov would doubt have done so to make way for an Andropov protégé - Mr Vitaly Vorotnikov, perhaps, who is 57. Mr Tikhonov will soon be 79. As it is, the gerontocracy continues, balanced in the Politburo by the thrusting young generation of men in their fifties who have time on their side.

The main beneficiary, on present evidence, is Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the "baby" of the leadership at 53. A stocky, prematurely balding man with a large birthmark on his forehead, Mr Gorbachov was Mr Andropov's chief lieutenant and came across to Russians and foreigners as articulate and intelligent. He has broadened his powers to include personnel "cadres" and

administration as well as agriculture, and may have acquired ideological credentials as well.

Mr Andropov and Mr Gorbachov did not succeed in greatly altering the composition of the Central Committee itself in the 18 months of the Andropov regime, but they did purge the administrative apparatus, and many of the new breed of officials are young, undogmatic men who owe allegiance to Mr Gorbachov.

Perhaps the most striking result of the Supreme Soviet is that, in the future, the party leader will almost automatically become President, regardless of his political standing. If the pattern of recent years is followed, Mr Gorbachov - who nominated Mr Chernenko to head of state on Wednesday - can expect to find himself nominated by his successor, when Mr Chernenko dies, or retires.

There are no foregone conclusions in Soviet politics on the other hand, and veteran observers recall that Georgy Malenkov - now forgotten - was considered the only heir to Stalin, but was outmanoeuvred by Khrushchev. There are other candidates today: Mr Gédard Aliev, the Deputy Prime Minister, who is Azerbaijani rather than Russian, but has a far more impressive economic record than Mr Gorbachov, and is no less able; Mr Vorotnikov; and Mr Grigoriy Romanov.

The long-term target is the next party congress in 1986, when a new Central Committee will be elected. Mr Gorbachov, who will still be only 55, must move to build up his power base in the party, while keeping the Andropov economic and administrative reform programme alive despite Mr Chernenko's hints this week that experiments must be "carefully considered" and that there is nothing much wrong with the existing structure.



Mr Gorbachov: The heir to the throne. Mr Vorotnikov: An older young pretender.

Filipinos march for accused priests

From Keith Dalton, Manila

After marching for four days, 4,000 farmers, workers and students from three towns converged on the central Philippines city of Bacolod yesterday to demonstrate against military "persecution" of the Church and to denounce the continued detention of three Roman Catholic priests on trial for murder.

Chanting "freedom" and "free the Negro Nine", the demonstrators carried placards denouncing military abuses and

harassment of the basic Christian communities which the priests, have established on Negros island during more than 15 years of missionary work. An Australian priest, Father Brian Gop, Father Niall O'Brien, an Irishman, and Father Vincent Dangan, a Filipino, were arrested with six lay workers last May and charged with the murder of a town mayor and four of his aides. They have pleaded not guilty

Friends sorry for 'senile' Britain

From Jeremy Taylor
Trinidad

Popular opinion in the Caribbean uses a stronger word than "lethargy" to describe the British Government's handling of last October's crisis in Grenada. So, in private, do some of the Caribbean leaders who sent token forces to join the Americans. But most of the region concurs with the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Commons, which reported last week that Britain "reacted passively".

There have been no serious second thoughts since October about the military intervention. The Prime Minister of Barbados, Dominica and St. Lucia, who played leading roles in encouraging it, have consistently defended the decision. Critics of the move still face the indignant rhetorical question: "So what would you have done?"

There has been no serious challenge so far to continued American influence in Grenada, or to the extreme circumspection of the interim advisory Council, which is providing Grenada with a lethargic break from domestic politics.

The council has politely asked Washington to return more than 25 tons of documents covering the 1979-83 revolution; but has twice been unsuccessful. The Americans have been publishing carefully-selected "extracts" from this material, which ranges from inter-governmental agreements to the diary of General Hudson Austin.

The damage sustained by British political and commercial interests in the Caribbean has been less than was feared at the time, though the feeling has been strengthened that Britain is withdrawing from the area and leaving the future to the Americans, who, have, a far higher profile.

It is not a case of anti-British feeling but sorrow at the senility of the old "mother country" to focus on the needs of her offspring.

Ironically, the Foreign Affairs Committee tried hard to dramatize these problems in a report issued in December, 1982. "We do not believe that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has paid (Grenada) sufficient attention," it said, complaining that briefings supplied by the FCO "did not reach the usual standards".

The committee, representation in Grenada to one lonely diplomat - and argues that British aid could "reinforce stability" in the area. Grenada's neighbours it noted, were critical not only of the revolution but of Britain's acquiescence in the American policy of "isolation and exclusion".

In Grenada itself, where government media and public relations staff are being retrained by a man from the Central Office of Information, elections are expected around late November, in spite of the island's weariness with politics. A special high-security court was prepared for the appearance on April 4 of 20 former government and military officers, including the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Bernard Coard, but the trial was adjourned to April 25.

Three of the many opposition parties joined forces last week in a move to occupy the long-vacant centre ground in Grenadian politics - between the former Prime Minister, Sir Eric Cairy and his GULP (Grenada United Labour Party), on the right, and remnants of the New Jewel Movement on the left.

The "togetherness" pact, still to be worked out in detail, involves the Grenada National Party of Mr Hubert Blaize, aged 65, who was Premier 20 years ago; the New Democratic Party of Mr George Brizan, which commands respect but not much mass support; and the Grenada Democratic Movement, led by Barbados-based lawyer, Mr Francis Alexis.

The new grouping could offer the first plausible political alternative, particularly if the conservatism of Mr Blaize and Mr Alexis is balanced by the more Social Democratic approach of Mr Brizan.

Sir Eric Cairy's hopes of a GULP electoral victory rest mainly on a split opposition and an early poll. Some of his support is said to be drifting away to a new party led by Mr Winston Whyte, a former detainee.

Sir Eric, whose earlier regime was described by the foreign affairs committee as "corrupt, repressive and sustained by rigged elections", is believed to have his sights on the Governor-General's job, held by Sir Paul Scoon.

and claim they are victims of a military "frame-up" because of their success in mobilizing the poor islanders against military abuses, land-grabbing and local government corruption.

The time accord was allowed out of the common cell to watch the marchers pass by the jail's main gate. Many marchers cried, others cheered and waved. Food and presents were passed through the gate to the priests.

THE ARTS

Theatre

Performed on principal

Venice Preserv'd
Lyttelton

Otway's play is the generally favoured candidate in the extremely short list of stageable Restoration tragedies, but if it is a tragedy it is one in a category of its own.

Not the least misleading thing about it is the title. Based on Venetian history, but also full of echoes from the Popish Plot and *Julius Caesar*, it swiftly turns aside from all these public issues in favour of a doomed love triangle between the two main conspirators, Jaffier and Pierre, and Jaffier's wife, Belvidera.

The plot to assassinate the Senate may arise from republican idealism, but no sooner does it get under way than Otway exposes the rebels as no less corrupt than their masters, and the preservation of Venice emerges as a matter of small importance in comparison with the fate of the three principals.

This point is centrally focused in the linked characters of the Senator, Antonio, and the conspiratorial master mind, Belvidera, both based on the figure of the Earl of Shaftesbury. The villainous Renault contradicts his political heroics by trying to rape Belvidera.

Antonio presents the comic side of the coin in flights of marvellously parodied political rhetoric, the "Nicky-Nacky" scenes with his reluctant courtesan, Aquilina, in which sado-masochism takes its bow on the English stage. These scenes were often apologized for and cut in performance, and, quite aside from sexual element, they are all too liable to disrupt the surrounding play.

The main action is conducted with all the chaste dignity of an Augustan historical painting, and the arrival of Antonio, a thoroughly private person, invading the formal space and revealing squalid personal secrets which otherwise are swept out of sight, is likely to reveal the noble, attitudinizing lovers as bloodlessly artificial.

Peter Gill's production makes the startling assumption that Otway knew exactly what he was doing, and goes on to a heroic-scale exercise in a long-vanished style. It is of a piece with his other classical work: a bare stage with a monumental back wall (Alison Chitty supplies a black peeling facade with a pair of gigantic doors), severely rationed outbursts of powerfully atmospheric music (modified Monteverdi from Dominic Muldowney), and no directorial editorializing or independent invention.

Peg Phoenix

The gentry are hard-pressed (by 7p-in-the-pound income tax, presumably), the lower orders know their place, and romance "hovers like a butterfly". This can only be a musical, and readers whose memories go back to 1914 and *Peg of My Heart* will remember the wacky Irish colleen from Manhattan, forced by her uncle's will on to scandalized county stuffs, and her romance with a young lawyer, involved enough to give social glamour but detached enough to do so without being tarred with the same brush.

The upstairs-downstairs hierarchy comprises a welcome Sian Phillips and her children, plus an improbable servants' hall over which John Haver, ripely

Concert

Endymion Ensemble/Whitfield St John's

John Whitfield and his Endymion Ensemble got to the end of their Birnstlemini festival on Thursday night with the controlled terror of *Verses for Ensembles*. Maybe the comings and goings of the instrumentalists on stage make this something of a period piece. It belongs to 1959, but I doubt the violence of the action will ever be much dimmed by age. The piece is a Greek tragedy, with the difference that all the dreadful events now happen on

stage, interpreted as music: scaring alarm calls from two trumpets, panic-stricken woodwind solos, and savage sections where wind and percussion take turns with the knife. It is an awesome spectacle.

Less so is the work Birnstlemini wrote for not dissimilar forces just a few years previously: *The World is Discovering*. This owes its title to a piece by the high Renaissance master Heinrich Isaac on which it is based, though the language is hidden with all the intricate secrecy of Maxwell Davies's music of the period. What one hears is a set of three woodwind arias alternating with instrumental choruses, the predominant



Iron sense of style: Jane Lapotaire and Michael Pennington

The fate of the play lies in the hands of the principals, and in their success in discovering high passion within the stiff limits of the verse.

For the first half of the evening, success is decidedly in the balance. You are very much aware of Mr Gill's formal pictorial compositions: of his habit of bringing groups, or individual actors, on at a run (very becoming to Belvidera's draperies) and then halting them for long static exchanges; and, most of all, by the expected contrast between these chilly formalities and the giggling roughish naturalism of Hugh Paddick's Antonio, hobbling on and coaxing Stephanie Beacham's insufferably bored Aquilina to take a whip to him.

However, the foundations of the love triangle have been firmly laid, and by the second half the preparation develops into two men are concerned. The success is overwhelmingly a matter of casting.

Like Gielgud and Scofield in the 1953 production (the only elements I can remember from the event), Michael Pennington and Jane Lapotaire's Belvidera has the harder task of carrying a great weight of verbal love declarations that remain inertly embalmed in period. She, no less than the others, preserves an iron sense of style; but emotionally it never takes wing.

Irving Wardle

introducing the action before a decanter of cognac, occasions the years' most embarrassing drunk scene, presides as butler.

In the hope that coach-party audiences have not changed their tastes in 20 years, David Hecker's score exhumes all the right melodic shapes without inspiration descending, and except in one deliciously languid ensemble, "I Want to Dance", thrown off in the second act and never heard again.

Wasteful casting includes Edward Duke of one-man Woodhouse fame as a silly-ass son with terrible lines, the sharply witty Liza Sadovaya as a heartstruck solicitor who can show his ringing tones but not his mischievous sense of humour. Still, there is Miss Phillips, vocally dodgy as ever but triumphantly upstaging hats

that could outface an ocean-going liner and bringing a sorely needed touch of devilment to her account of crossing from Haywards Heath to India as a fisher of men in a sense the Bible never intended.

No chorus (good economics), though Julia Sutton as the chateaux recalls losing her boyfriend in the Boer War and having a cocoa to recover.

Miss Phillips, as the widowed membership in Simla Lodge, St Leonards, commands "Bring on the mulgatawys," but what passes for box-office wisdom has dictated an insipid reheat of old English leftovers. With barely a good tune and even the elegant Peter Rice's design going abstract and undisturbed, we can only wait and see if the *Charlie Girl* public will fork out again.

Anthony Masters

mood being sombre and wheezy, with almost no hint of the "bright" circus tracks which was to be imagined. Here the world is not discovered at all: only the composer's ruminate time-scale is already present.

The trawl into early Ligeti was more rewarding. His *Six Baguettes* for wind quintet of 1953 are a lively group, a couple of them disarmingly Stravinsky-like, one of them heavy with complex bell chords in memory of Bartok, none of them sounding a bit like the Ligeti know and love. They were all in good health in this performance.

Paul Griffiths

Television

Sticky labels

The last of the present series of Well Being (Channel 4) was concerned with the world of adolescence, or at least that part of it which is described as "disturbed, delinquent, deviant". It was perhaps only two generations ago that children were considered to be innately amoral or anarchic, but in our own time their violent or disruptive behaviour is generally blamed upon external pressures.

One of the children in last night's programme, Charlie, liked to "muck about" with his teachers: he did not care for rules. A situation which was attributed to the fact that he was an orphan and had lived principally with foster parents. This overlooks the evident truth that many other orphans are models of probity.

Certainly Charlie was a complicated child, but as a result labels like "disturbed" or "maladjusted" are too simplistic to be of any real value - and there is always a danger that the impressionable will attempt to live up to their descriptions. But the point of such labels, I suspect, is that they are of use to those involved in educating or caring for the children involved. As one headmaster put it, "in secondary schools, we are obsessed with social control".

In other words, the labels represent a form of administrative control, and may be no more helpful than the more pragmatic, or even disciplinary, regimes of previous decades. There was one glum-sneering adolescent who might agree - he was happy, he said, until the psychiatrist and social workers got to him.

Since then now seems to be a general belief that the behaviour of children should be blamed on forces other than those of their own character and temperament, perhaps those who complain about hoodlums and delinquency will feel it necessary to address their complaints to the architects of the present school system.

Well Being, however, seemed to be suggesting that even more relaxed and "democratic" schools might be the answer - although another "disturbed" child whom they interviewed might not be happy in such a place. One had been sent to a quite different institution for "short, sharp, shock" treatment. "I liked it," he said, "I didn't want to come home."

Peter Ackroyd

WEEKEND CHOICE

Ronald Harwood's theatre history *All the World's a Stage* (tomorrow, BBC2, 8.25pm), now only one instalment away from its final curtain, has had its ups and downs. The penultimate film in the series is an up: not on the same level as *The Master Builders* two weeks ago, but high enough. It is the history of the American musical, from a five-and-a-half hour show with girls galore in 1866 to *A Chorus Line*, Mr Harwood picks out two of the main threads: from the stage musicals, razzmatazz and realism, and examines them in distinguished company (Arthur Miller, Stephen Sondheim). When the threads are overlaid, as in *A Chorus Line*, we hear another of those theatrical explosions that Mr Harwood has been recording during his series. That being so, he ought, perhaps, to have revised his earlier description of razzmatazz as the mistaking of frenzy for talent.

Other television highlights the final programme in Tortelli's Masterclass series (tonight, BBC2, 7.30pm) in which the cellist, as much actor as musician, takes two students through Tchaikovsky's *Rococo Variations*; and Paul Scott's *Staying On* (tomorrow, Channel 4, 8.15pm).

Radio highlight: Rhys Adrian's beautifully spoken conversation piece, *Passing Time* (today, Radio 4, 2.05pm), with John Gielgud and Raymond Huxley as the nonagenarians who, though still in this world, are no longer of it. A worthy way to mark Sir John's eightieth birthday.

Peter Davale

Radio

The multinationals defrocked

A suitably mixed impression emerged from *A Power in All the Land* (Radio 4, April 6 and 7, producer, Peter Day), in which John Roberts peered into the enclosed orders of the multinationals. Indeed, if you judge by the comments of some of those who work for them, the monastic parallel is not altogether inappropriate.

Just as in the Middle Ages a monk might have moved to almost any house within his own order - either in Europe or later even in its colonies - without too great a sense of disorientation, so the employees of the vast international corporations have few problems moving from Bogota to Bangkok, provided they remain within the corporate cloister. Leaving the company that would be the real trauma, like being defrocked.

And again, just as the rites according to St Benedict would hardly vary from Monte Cassino to Madagascar, so the products of a multinational - a can of Coke, an Olympus camera - are the same the world over.

The multinationals offer benefits which we consumers seem to want enough to ensure that these monsters will continue to flourish. Mr Roberts made plain the dangers, however, and most of them reside in power which is very difficult to control. Many of the huge companies are not only richer than some of the governments they deal with, but infinitely more sophisticated in their methods.

In world plagued by recession, governments which were once inclined to negotiate with caution now woo these

people assiduously - as we did Nissan. The companies can impose conditions for which one day all of us may be sorry. "Either relax your legislation on pollution or we and any number of those jobs you so badly need will go elsewhere."

One activity in which international commercial pressures have proved notoriously difficult to control is whaling. The difficulties were touched on by Professor Robert May of Princeton university when interviewed by Colin Tudge in May's *Ark* (Radio 3, April 11; producer, Deborah Cohen). The chief problem is quite simply that the Whaling Commission ignores its scientific advisers. Biologists do not know enough about whales to put forward an unassailable case.

Besides, said the professor, a zoologist and an authority on the conservation of species, there is probably little danger of populations dwindling sufficiently hunting is no longer economic, and the commercial instinct acts to allow recovery.

David Wade

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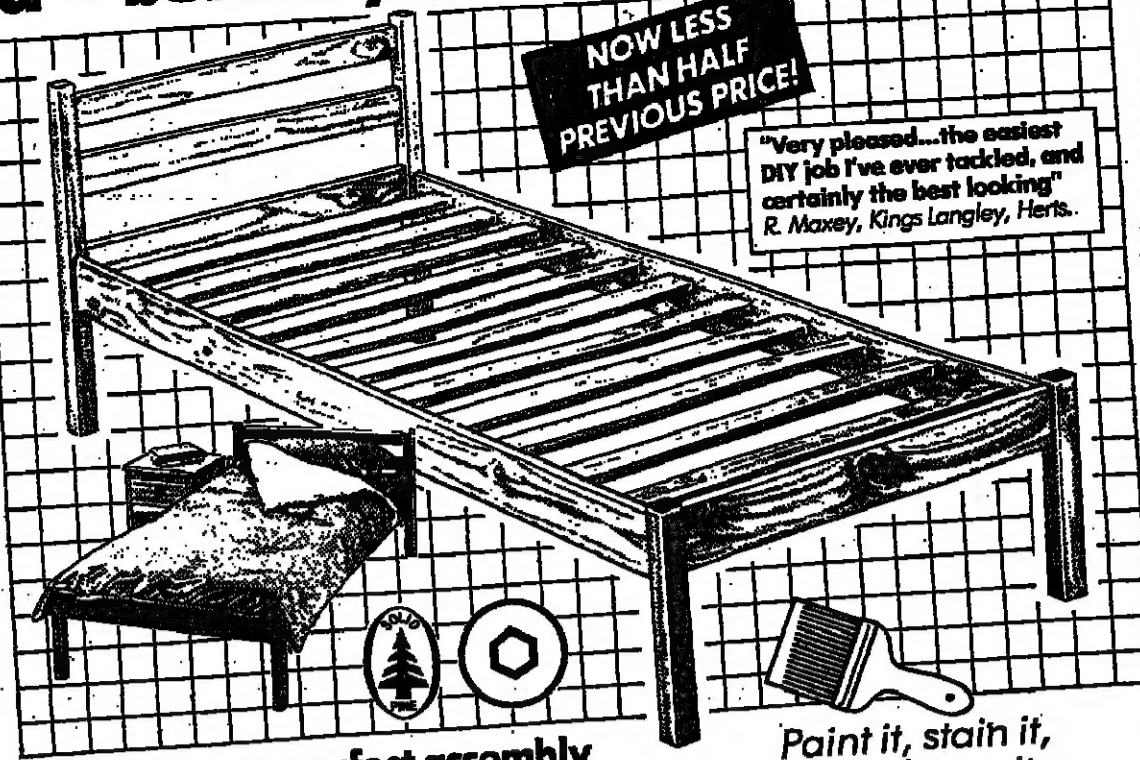
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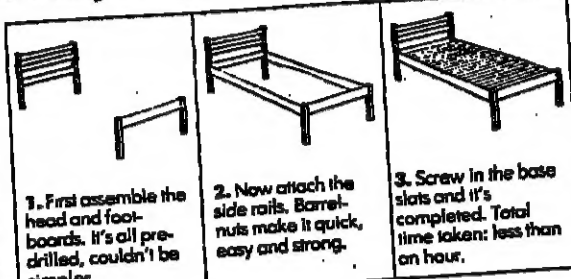
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SPORTING DIARY

22 good men and trows

It's spring again, the season when all men of spirit start perusing the ads in cricket magazines for a bat that will transform a Leitchworth prodigy into Denis Compton or the gauntlets that will transform a Barnet Irons Gloves into Tiger Smith. But, it seems, the really vital piece of equipment this year is trousers. David Gower has apparently put all his experience into one particular brand, Mike Gatting can honestly say of Mike Gatting Flannels: "I can honestly say that they are the most comfortable cricket trousers I have ever worn," though admittedly not all of us are built quite like Mike Gatting.

The prize item, inevitably, is endorsed by Somerset's captain, "Attack With Botham Batting Trousers." I read that the trousers have "unfinished bottoms." I don't know quite how to react to that.

● Sadly, Peter Smith cannot muster any old team-mates to play for his club, Marine, in today's FA Trophy semi-final with Northwich Victoria. Smith once played alongside Pele for Los Angeles Aztecs.

Long arm...

Referee Clive Thomas, renowned for writing soccer players' names in notebooks, has now written their reminiscences, which he calls, aptly, *By The Book*. In it he claims a personal best: he once booked Howard Smith of Rhyl in the car park, 25 minutes after the match had ended, for criticizing Thomas's handling of the game. Smith was later fined £25.

Name of the game

I am starting a collection of footballers' nicknames - yes, truly, a subject many might consider dull. Such examples as "Robbo" and "Shiltz" hardly excite the imagination. But I rather like the name given to Brian Talbot of Arsenal - "Three Prods". This is a reference to the number of touches he is alleged to require to bring a football under control. And I hear that Steve Archibald, that pale, Chattertonesque Tottenham Hotspur forward, is known as "The White Rat".

Kicking for home

Introducing the footballing racehorse. Precocious, that splendidly promising sprinter, cracked a knee in the winter while messing about in his box. To prevent a repetition, his connexions came up with a brilliant idea: they gave him a football. Precocious now whizzes away the time developing his ball skills when not working towards the real goal - a top-class sprint prize or two.

Out of step

So far the Los Angeles Olympics are famous for one thing: money. So guess why only 48 dancers turned up in Hollywood to audition for 150 places in the opening ceremony on July 28. Correct: the pay, a mere 300 to 900 dollars depending on prominence. The choreographer, Ron Field, is now auditioning again. I'm thinking of applying.

BARRY FANTONI



'Let's hope he remembers to kiss the girl'

Rallying round

The organizers of the Safari Rally in Kenya, the toughest motor racing event of the year, have asked villagers along the route to make it slightly less tough than usual. "Please don't throw as many stones at the cars as you have in previous years," is the message. "Perhaps you might like to cheer the drivers instead." "But it is hard to cheer drivers who whip out your livestock as they whizz past, so drivers in the rally, which starts on Thursday, should keep their heads well down.

● Edgbaston has finally committed women to go boldly into those sacred parts of the cricket ground where no woman has trod before. But nothing comes for free in Birmingham: the Ladies' Pavilion is now open to chaos.

Tour de farce

It's nice to know that one band of sportsmen have managed to have a more disastrous tour than England's cricketers: The Argentine soccer side San Lorenzo, who finished as first division runners-up, had such an awful time in Central America that they were stuck without even enough money to get home and had to scratch about for an unscheduled fixture, to raise the cash. Their problems were caused by the tour promoter, who vanished with all the takings, leaving the players with a hotel bill, no money, and no idea where they were due to play next.

Simon Barnes

Put art in a new framework

Geraldine Norman calls for a change in the tax system on American lines to preserve our cultural heritage from foreign predators

Britain's system for limiting the export of great works of art is seizing up. The art market has driven prices to levels beyond the purchasing power of our museums and galleries on any but the rarest and most exceptional occasions. But the prices are mounting more and more owners to sell.

On May 9, the House of Lords will debate a motion tabled by Lord Fanshawe of Richmond, vice-chairman of the Conservative Party, which reflects the concern over the issue. He is to ask the Government what it is doing to preserve our cultural heritage, "having regard to the immense buying power of the Getty Museum." Lord Gowrie, Minister for the Arts, will be replying, so the debate should reveal whether the Government is prepared to tackle the problem and, if so, how.

The Getty Museum in Malibu, California, which needs to spend £15m a week to retain its charitable tax status, takes an unfair share of the blame for the enormous prices now paid for works of art. Other American museums have huge resources, such as the Kimbell Museum in Fort Worth, and so do American collectors and a number of museums and private individuals around the world. Wall Street's recovery last year made Americans

feel much richer, while the fall of the pound against the dollar enhanced their purchasing power in Britain. The solution, therefore, does not lie with frightening off the Getty Museum alone but with changing our protection system, or with deciding to give up the unequal struggle and let the art go.

The first line of our defences lies with the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art. It can advise the Arts Minister to withhold an export licence for a stated period, usually three months, to allow a British institution to try to raise money to match the export price. If the funds are available, no licence is granted and the owner must either sell to that institution or keep the work of art in this country.

This system was set up on the recommendation of the Waverley Committee in 1952 and has served us well. About 20 cases have been considered by the committee each year and most of the items it considers important have been kept in Britain. In 1983, when the

number jumped from 20 to 50, the five most expensive items reviewed left the country, funds not being available to keep them.

The second line of defence lies with the providers of funds, most importantly the National Heritage Memorial Fund, which now has around £15m. It has just declined to help Manchester to buy a £1.8m panel. It also refused the British Museum the £5m asking price for the Duke of Devonshire's drawings. Museum and gallery purchase grants, the Heritage Fund and private supporters can manage only two or three big buys a year.

Most of the art treasures we would like to keep in Britain come from the state home collections where capital taxes become payable at least once in each generation. The Treasury allows a significant tax concession on art ceded to the nation - which does keep a certain number of treasures out of the export queue. The government is not frightened of radical tax changes. This one is desperately needed.

which all permit a ban on the export of a work, whether or not a local institution has the money to buy it. To deny a work of art free access to the world market slashes its value. Such a system effectively confiscates a proportion of the wealth of art owners, and the British, with their love of fair play, have avoided it.

The point has now been reached where there are really only two alternatives: confiscatory controls or making purchase money available. The present government is not temperamentally suited to confiscatory controls. It is also against increasing government expenditure. It must therefore put Nigel Lawson's remarkable ingenuity back to work and devise a tax incentive to conjure the required funds out of the private sector.

American collectors who give works of art to museums may deduct their value from gross income before calculating income tax. This means they can choose to pay tax in the form of art donations.

For more than 20 years the British art establishment has been trying to persuade government to do the same, only to be told that the tax change implied was too "radical" or too great an encouragement to tax-fiddlers. The present government is not frightened of radical tax changes. This one is desperately needed.

David Nicholson-Lord on the garden festival's real significance

Mountains out of dolehills



The garden festival has shown how they can be turned back given the will. The cost has been great - £13 million for 250 acres, many times that of conventional grassland reclamation - but the lessons are instructive, not least because they point up the implications of our increasing skills in landscape creation. In Liverpool itself, for example, the Rural Preservation Association, a voluntary group of ecologists, has for several years been recreating pockets of chalk grassland, heathland and other "natural" habitats on vacant, garbage-strewn inner-city land. The RPA will be displaying its skills at the festival.

Reclamation schemes throughout the country provide ever-new examples of plants being persuaded to thrive on complex mixtures of toxic waste. Work done by individuals such as Terry Wells and Brian Davis at the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology shows, according to Wells, that it is possible to recreate replicas of most ancient grasslands.

Hence the contribution of landscape architects at Liverpool has been primary, in a way not seen for years. But with power has come responsibility, for since the notion of countryside, what it represents and who made it, arouses such strong feelings, who is to choose what sort of landscapes we should now be creating?

Most landscape architects prefer to steer well clear of such ideologically charged issues. Richard Cass, who led the reclamation team at Merseyside, talks of recreating landscapes of old - specifically Toxteth forest, designated a royal hunting chase by King John and still lending a rural tinge to Liverpool 8 until the end of the last century. The true test of the landscape team's creation, he says, will come in 25 years when houses have been built and families brought up there, and children will have discovered whether they can grow as attached to their mountain of camouflaged rubbish as a child in, say, rural Devon does to thecombe at the bottom of his garden.

There is one encouraging precedent, however, demonstrating how the creation of parks can constitute the soundest investment.

Britain led the world in landscape architecture until the second half of the nineteenth century, when the Americans took the tradition of Pope, Brown and Repton and applied it to the cities, leaving their British counterparts largely designing gardens. Some current landscape work, at Warrington and Milton Keynes new towns, for example, shows we may now be staging a comeback. But one of the last great flings of the native landscapers took place exactly 140 years ago, just across the river from the festival.

The parallels with Sir Joseph Paxton's splendid, spacious and speculative development at Birkenhead Park are too numerous and intriguing to mention, but the Merseyside Development Corporation will derive immense comfort from one in particular. Land for the park, and for the handsome villas it was hoped to tempt there, originally came from a square yard. By 1844, only a year or so after work started, it was being sold by the improvement commissioners for more than 11 times that amount.

some future biographer will discover that, under an assumed name, the old buffer had a regular season ticket to the Ziegfeld Follies.

As for Jolson, he carried on singing the song for the rest of his life, and more than made up for the lost money. However, the next time he went near that highway stuff, he made sure the guy was already dead, and, as an added precaution, picked somebody no one had ever heard of: Ivanovici, a nineteenth century composer who posthumously provided Jolson and Saul Chaplin with *The Anniversary Song*.

Ravel died in 1937, so he won't be able to capitalize on his current chart success. Otherwise, he might well be working on *Let's Bolero* again for the follow-up single. As it is, the only clue to his views on the cop 40 is provided by a reported conversation with George Gershwin in 1928. The young American asked if he might study with Ravel, whereupon Ravel inquired rather sarcastically about Gershwin's annual earnings. On hearing the answer (more than \$100,000), Ravel replied: "It is I who should be studying with you".

Mark Steyn

Roy Strong

Through a plate glass drably

One of the great minor arts which has practically been killed off in this country is that of window display. A glance at the Design Centre in the Haymarket will confirm how far we have sunk in this form of presentation.

In London at present only four shops, Harrods, Harvey Nichols, Liberty's and Selfridges, make any attempt at dressing their windows as microcosms of current style. Other stores like the Army & Navy have virtually banished display altogether, while Barkers has, for the past few years, been a monument to expensive vulgarity which provides every visitor with regular evidence of our decline in taste and design.

Concern with such a topic may seem trivial, but it is not. Any visitor to a metropolis can tell the importance of the contents of shop windows. They, along with advertising in the form of posters, provide the most immediate impression of a country's international awareness of current style and fashion and, more importantly, its own contribution. One of the great pleasures of being in New York is that stroll down Fifth Avenue, above all at Christmas time. The windows of the great department stores are dressed with a breathtaking sense of occasion reflecting the seasons, each tableau a work of art in its own right telling the potential purchaser of the movement of style by providing, like a fashion magazine, a heightened, even fantastic, vision of it.

In London, that ability has gone to the detriment both of our commerce and our international image. We had it once, strangely enough in that beleaguered, impoverished, design-reforming era, the 1950s. Janine Janet was the great exponent in Paris, but London had its own genius in Eric Lucking whose dressing of Liberty's windows was so astounding that, as an art-struck schoolboy, I used to voyage just to stand and stare in wonder at them. And it was all done with bales of fabric and pins without ever wielding scissors. It was a tradition of brilliance kept going by his successor, Roy Strong. During the same period Simpson's windows were dressed by Natasha Kroll and they too were points of reference on British style. If I could point to an accessible reference as to how far we

have travelled from this it would be to the Christmas lights in Regent Street which year by year descend ever deeper into a mire of tasteless kitsch: far better to do away with them.

Ironically, it was the sixties that witnessed the decline of this art. Affluence eroded inventiveness. Perhaps too there was a reaction against the great set pieces in the same way that trade moved from the large stores to the small boutiques in Chelsea and in the Carnaby Street area. In addition there was little public recognition of the huge role that the exponents of this art had played in lifting London as a place of style and fashion.

To me it is a sad loss. It has not been replaced either by the Italian approach to window dressing which is based on exquisite sensitivity aligned to supreme calculation. Everything looks thrown into the window of an Italian shop but in a manner which registers all that its contents have to offer in terms of quality and style. A lesson as to how good they are at it, is provided by Jermyn and Bond Streets where the Italians make use of this design principle to the detriment of our own shops where the goods are either badly displayed or literally just thrown in.

The English visual sense has never recovered since. The Reformation removed images from the eyes and placed them, in the form of words, in the mind. Almost anywhere on the continent there is an instinctive eye for the placing of merchandise, a sense of *joie de vivre* in cascades of fruit, fish or meat. Even the humblest market stall seems to compose itself into a still-life whereas here such ingredients in the main seem dumped. The fish is not arranged on the slab in radiating patterns. The meat and game does not look fit to be painted by Oudry. Even the parsley now is placed. This is a sad saga but surely not beyond redemption. Selfridges, for one, has made the voyage back from the depths. Sainsbury's, for example, could apply its energies to the presentation of food. The role of the display manager should be lifted, recognized and properly paid. Ephemeral it may be but window dressing embodies an alliance of pleasure-giving to the onlooker with sharp commercial good sense.

Anthony Parsons

A faint far glitter of minor gems

I mourn the passing of *The Jewel in the Crown*, for many weeks anticipation of the next episode sustained my wife and myself from one Tuesday to the next. But *Jewel in the Crown* is only the most recent of a flood of books, fictional and non-fictional, plays, films and television programmes about the British Raj in India, a flood which reflects a natural public interest in the strange historical phenomenon of a small island in the Northern Hemisphere influencing the destiny of the teeming sub-continent of Asia for two centuries.

Britain's legacy to the sub-continent is complex and multi-faceted. But many features of it are clearly identifiable, viz the widespread use of the English language, some domestic and public architecture, basic communications infrastructure, the style and tradition of the armed forces and police, the parliamentary system of government in India, to name a few of the more obvious manifestations of the impact of one culture on another, the intermingling of two civilizations.

Watching *Jewel in the Crown*, seeing the films *Gandhi* and *Heat and Dust* and reading books by, for example, Paul Scott and John Masters, has set me thinking about a more shadowy and less tangible British legacy to another part of the world. In the Middle East, Britain, in the interests originally of imperial communications to India and latterly of securing oil supplies, exercised indirect rule or at least abnormal influence over many countries, in some cases for almost as long a period.

I served many years in this area, from the Sudan and Egypt in the west to Iran in the east. I participated in the process, sometimes painful, sometimes turbulent, sometimes graceful and timely, of transforming Britain's position of sub-imperial power to one of normal relations with the states of the region; a process which effectively began with the end of the Second World War and concluded with the termination of the British protective and other special treaties with the Gulf states at the end of 1971.

Now I ask myself - what have we given the dozen or so states of the Middle East which felt the weight of British influence? What features of "Britishness" have become assimilated in their cultures, their administrations, their intellectual and political processes, their day-to-day lives?

It would be hard to identify any physical monuments of the kind so liberally distributed by the Roman Empire throughout this region. The great foreign educational establishments which have helped to transmit Western political and social ideas to the people of the Middle East since the mid nineteenth century, with a few notable exceptions, were of French or American, not British, origin.

There is little of the British parliamentary system in the area, except in Israel. Some Arabs would go so far as to say that Britain's principal legacy to them is, the problem of Palestine, that abiding source of war, misery and unrest. Others would concede that, had it not been for British power and

protection in the century which ended with the close of the first World War, their states would not exist, surely an important heritage.

Many would testify to the dedicated work of and long enduring friendships with individual Englishmen and to a admiration and respect for our institutions and way of life, as opposed to dislike of "the British" for so long the symbols of imperialism, interference and the hidden hand. Outsiders would still be able to detect residual traces of British influence in certain manifestations of public, rather than political life in many of the states of the Middle East, in civil administration, in the armed forces, even in the attitudes of mind of those who were brought into closest contact with us. Paradoxically these and other traces are faintest in the country where the British presence was most obtrusive and most protracted - in Egypt, and most countries where British presence was either brief in time or small in numbers, or both.

There is no overall pattern and the outlines of our landscape are elusive. Maybe this is so to a greater or lesser extent wherever the British have set foot. The Empire was no intellectual construct translated into reality. It just grew, often with the flag following trade. Governmental policies varied from election to election and the administrators on the spot had to do the best they could. Unlike the French we had no feeling of a mission to civilize, no compulsion to transform those whom we ruled and influenced into foreign versions of ourselves.

More than 30 years ago, an irreverent young Englishman in Iraq, unimpressed by the "expatriate club life" of the British community, remarked that T. S. Eliot's thousand lost golf balls would be the symbols of what was left when the British moved out, our equivalent of the Roman triumphal arch or the Islamic minaret.

Not altogether fair perhaps. Maybe Lord Cromer, the great proconsul, in his monumental *Modern Egypt* published in 1908, should have the last word. "It is probable that few Englishmen ever ask themselves seriously the question of Quo Vadis in connexion with either Indian or Egyptian affairs. The practical instincts of our race lead us to deal with whatever affairs we have in hand for the moment, and to discard any attempt to peer too curiously into the remote future. That instinct seems to me to be eminently wise."

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How I got it wrong

on Iran

Sir Anthony Parsons, until recently foreign policy adviser to the Prime Minister, was ambassador to Tehran from 1974-79. In *The Times* next week he tells his personal story of the misadventure of the Shah and how the West missed the signs that led to the regime of Ayatollah Khomeini.

مكتبة الأناضول



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A KIND OF POLLING

Tomorrow is election day in Iran. That sounds incongruous, given what one knows of the present political system in Iran, but then the world is full of incongruities. Only the other day, after all, it was election day in the Soviet Union.

The leaders of both countries would find the comparison highly offensive. The Soviet Union likes to present itself as democratic, progressive, enlightened, while it has come round to recognizing Ayatollah Khomeini's regime (since he arrested and tortured Iranian communist leaders) as reactionary, benighted and despotic. The Ayatollah for his part believes that he is enforcing the law of God upon earth, whereas he sees the Soviet Union as an atheist and predatory power, no better (sic) than the United States or Britain. He is a leading tenant of that theory of the moral equivalence of the superpowers which Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick rightly deplores.

Clearly elections in Iran do not mean what they mean here. The Ayatollah, indeed, would be the first to say so. In Iran, as Mr Musavi Ardabili, president of the Supreme Court, has explained, "there is Islamic freedom but not American democracy". Iranians are not being offered a chance to vote against the Government. They do not have a choice between clearly labelled parties, each with its own manifesto and list of candidates. Even the very small and tame opposition group which has been tolerated (just) in the outgoing parliament, led by former prime minister Mehdi Bazargan, is not running for reelection, because it has been given no chance to express its views in the press.

Any serious opposition is, of course, totally banned. If there-

fore the elections were to give any guidance at all about the regime's popularity it could only be through the turn-out, and even this will be very hard for outsiders to verify. Only the regime will be in a position to count the blank votes which Mr Shahpur Bakhtiar, the Shah's last prime minister, has asked his supporters to register. And only the regime will really know how many voters stayed away from the polls altogether. Even then it will not know how many of them were respecting the advice given by the left-wing People's Mujahidin, and how many abstained out of simple apathy.

Yet the preparations for the elections have revealed that Iran is not yet quite a one-party state on the Soviet model. Probably it would be if Ayatollah Beheshti, the organizer of the Islamic Republican Party, had not been killed along with most of its leadership in the explosion of June 28, 1981. As it is, the IIRP has withered on the vine and the political cadres of the regime, although all Shiite clerics who accept the supremacy of Ayatollah Khomeini, remain rather loosely organized. The regime lacks structure, and the faction-fighting within it is only just below the surface. Efforts to form a nationwide slate of candidates broke down. There are rival candidates in most constituencies, though they are forbidden officially to support each other. The Iranian people could be said to have the choice which Marx claimed was typical of bourgeois democracy: the right to choose its oppressors every five years.

Three factions have been discerned among the ruling clergy by those relatively well placed to observe them. There are the "primitives" of the Hojatieh, formerly the Anti-Bahai Organization, with its

main base at Mashhad in eastern Iran. There are the "fighting clergy" (*ulama mubazirzin*) based in Tehran and associated with Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani, a clever religious lawyer who heads the Council of Guardians set up to vet legislation for conformity with Islamic law. And there are the "high ayatollahs" of Qom, strongly entrenched in the same Council of Guardians and conservative in the sense of being firm believers in private property. The older of these are generally considered to outrank Ayatollah Khomeini in religious learning, as opposed to political charisma, but they also include Ayatollah Montazeri, one of his best pupils and his apparently chosen but not yet formally ratified successor.

In the younger generation the two most prominent leaders are the president, Khamene'i, and the speaker of the outgoing parliament, Hashemi-Rafsanjani: the former allegedly more "radical" on economic issues and less favourable to any compromise with the West than the latter, but both regarded as "typical Tehrani mullahs who will change with the wind".

The wind blows, for the moment, in favour of continuing the war with Iraq in spite of its enormous cost. Ayatollah Khomeini has no time for UN missions which fail to condemn Iraq by name: "It would have been much better if they had not taken this step, so that we ourselves, without having to resort to such crimes (sic), would, God willing, remove Saddam (President Saddam Hussein of Iraq) and the Baath Party with a crushing blow and then liberate the Iraqi nation from the yoke imposed on it by this corrupt man." The yoke of war is still imposed on Iraqi and Iranian nation alike.

AN ILL-ADVISED LOGIC

In its discussion of the law on incest, the Criminal Law Revision Committee (CLRC) starts from the position that incestuous relationships are "wholly undesirable for the individual and for our society and potentially harmful with possible long-term psychological consequences for those involved and their families." These are the words of the Policy Advisory Committee, set up by Mr Roy Jenkins when he was Home Secretary to advise the CLRC which now adopts them as its "own approach" in discussing the subject in its report this week on Sexual Offences. The CLRC also acknowledges that the available evidence "appears to establish that where the parties to an incestuous relationship are related in the first degree (parent-child, brother-sister) there is a high risk that any children born to them will suffer from a serious defect."

Yet despite this evidence, the CLRC "broadly shares" the view of the Policy Advisory Committee that the genetic risk "is not very important to a consideration of the justification for an offence of incest." This judgement is founded on the curious logic that since society does not intervene in cases where hereditary disease is a risk to the offspring of a sexual relationship, it should not do so in the matter of incest simply because the offspring may suffer disability. That, however, is not the kind of logic which will appeal to the common sense of most people, and neither will the CLRC's recommendation that brother-sister incest should cease to be an offence under the criminal law over the age of 21.

The CLRC's reasoning starts from the proposition that the primary aim of the law is the

protection of the young and the vulnerable from sexual exploitation within the family, the often appalling consequences of which hardly need to be spelt out. Not the least of them is that the offence is committed by the very people from whom the child has the right to expect support. The CLRC rightly accepts that the criminal law is particularly useful in strengthening the hand of social agencies trying to end such relationships.

The report therefore concludes that parent-child incest should continue to be an offence at all ages. Its majority, though with a minority dissenting, rejects the opinion of the Policy Advisory Committee that this kind of incest should only be an offence if a daughter (or son) were under the age of 21, apparently on the grounds that, above that age, people do not require the intervention of the criminal law in such cases. That is a proposition that would not bear close examination, and the CLRC will be widely supported in rejecting it.

Unfortunately, however, the CLRC majority has accepted the opinion that incest between brother and sister should not be an offence over the age of 21, despite the significant fact that a substantial majority of commentators on a working paper it produced thought that it should be. It is a case in which the Home Secretary should pay more heed to this majority, which almost certainly reflects the majority view in the country, than to the sophisticated argument for change.

The change is recommended by the CLRC not only because the protection of the law is held to be unnecessary for the people over 21 (and the genetic risks discarding though real) but

because the law is seen as "unnecessarily cruel" for brothers and sisters who, having grown up apart, may form a sexual relationship in ignorance of their relationship by blood. Yet there remains great truth in the adage that hard cases make bad law. There is no doubt (experience) since the "permissive" legislation of the Sixties (supports it) that changes in the law tend to influence behaviour because what the law allows is felt to have a weight of moral disapproval removed from it. The consequences of the abortion law are a conspicuous example.

It may be argued that the taboo against incest is too strong for it to be significantly weakened by such a change in the law. Yet other taboos have been weakened in precisely this way.

If the proposed change were enacted, there would not be wanting some who would suggest to children that brother-sister incest was just another form of adult sexual behaviour; indeed, this was precisely the implication in at least one sex education book which described it as a loving though illegal relationship. Moreover, if it were permissible at 21, there would soon be pressure for that age to be lowered at 18, and then perhaps 16.

There is much in the CLRC's report which will have general support, most notably some of the proposed changes in the law on rape. But the Home Secretary will be wise to consult the public to establish which are its good parts and which its bad. The opinion of the expert and of the committee (who may change it tomorrow) is not always to be preferred to Everyman's commonsense.

MR BRITAN'S OWN GOLD

The Home Secretary's Olympic record on behalf of Miss Zola Budd - breasting the red tape in ten days flat - is one of those publicity-conditioned gestures that do not quite come off. Cat-calls mingle with the cheers. Mr Denis Howell, who as a former minister of everything from sport to water knows a thing or two, accuses the Home Secretary of prostituting his department's procedures in the service of sportsbait and a newspaper stunt. The *Daily Mail* gives Mr Howell two pages of its fruitiest invective charging him and the entire Labour Party with meanness, envy and malevolence. Incapable of spotting glad tidings of great joy even when dished up to them on the front page of a newspaper. Some of the young women who have been training hard for a place in the British team for Los Angeles have only a labourer-in-the-vineyard's welcome for the late arrival. The Home Office has expressed her application, but the International Olympic Committee has yet to waive its

three-year rule on change of nationality. Onlookers reflect that, glorious as British golds may be, they lose gleam to the extent that they are won by nifty manipulation of regulations made under the Nationality Act.

The queue is an English institution high in the hierarchy of social values. Queue-jumping is frowned upon accordingly. What persuaded the Home Secretary to engineer Miss Budd's jump which has left 70,000 people standing in varying states of impatience and anxiety for the usual waiting period of from six months to two years?

Was the case treated as a compassionate case, denial of the opportunity to compete in the Olympics being judged unconscionable? Is it that the Olympic games are affairs of state so that Cabinet ministers must go out of their way to facilitate participation, or, last time, to obstruct it? Was the Home Secretary moved by the danger to Miss

Budd of being lured into the athletic forcing-house of some American campus, a fate (according to the *Daily Mail*) worse than being placed in the care and protection of the *Daily Mail*? Was he battling for Britain in the Oman tradition, bagging golds as others bag construction contracts? Or was he battling for Britain, conscious that Fleet Street would have him for breakfast if the dead hand of bureaucracy had been allowed to blight the hopes of the prodigy from Bloemfontein? Mr David Waddington, the junior Home Office minister who fielded a short adjournment debate this week, treated the answer as too obvious to need stating.

As for the object of his solicitude, it is very much to be hoped that her barefoot brilliance survives the culture shock; and that her youth finds satisfaction in the world of glamour, promotion and achievement in which she is now competing and being used.

How ships survive in time of war

From Professor Sir Ronald Mason, FRS

Sir, A number of your correspondents have commented upon transatlantic reinforcement campaigns and their dependence upon, inter alia, the survivability of surface ships in a high-intensity maritime conflict. There are several observations to make which are more factual than anecdotal:

1. Only independent sailings can provide reinforcements for the central front land battle even if the conventional phase is imagined to extend over three or four weeks. A relatively infrequent assumption within the Alliance. There is clear evidence that such a shipping campaign can be sustained with relatively few losses, the survivability of high-value assets being enhanced with cost-effective hard and soft-point defence weapons systems. This analysis is important to Alliance defence and deterrence postures.

2. Convoys can only deliver significant reinforcements to Europe after a month or more of the start of conventionally fought hostilities. Tracking and targeting of more concentrated, less mobile ships (convoys) is inevitably more assured, given present and future overhead and other surveillance systems. Comprehensive area defence against a regimental attack of sea and air-launched stand-off missiles is extremely difficult. There are few serious observers who would claim that the US Aegis system is "leak-proof", even at its very high cost.

For the future, developments in reducing missile signatures and improving their guidance and homing capabilities seem certain to ensure that the balance of advantage will lie with penetrating and more accurate missiles.

That, indeed, must be one of the Alliance's responses to the build-up of the Soviet Navy; we have major force multipliers in our surveillance and missile capabilities which represent more cost-effective investments for deterrence compared with that advocated by interested parties, of adding more surface warships for ill-defined requirements.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD MASON,
The British Atlantic Committee,
30a St James's Square, SW1,
April 6.

Hard economics of pits

From Mr John Stokes, MP for Halesowen and Stourbridge (Conservative)

Sir, I fear that many admirers of the Archbishop of York will be dismayed at the content of his letter to the Durham miners (report, April 12) in which he declares himself in favour of keeping open uneconomic pits. The Archbishop has a reputation of being a clever man, but it would seem that his heart has overruled his head in this matter - perhaps because of his contact with miners when he was Bishop of Durham.

Most people want to see miners continue to employ, but surely there is no future for them or for the nation if they mine coal which is too expensive for any customers to want to buy. I do not believe that any miners have yet been made redundant. They will be offered transfer to other pits and if they do choose to leave the industry their compensation is generous.

The Archbishop's message does not seem good economics, nor do I see the specifically Christian content. I am also sorry to see that the Archbishop would not comment on the violence and intimidation on some picket lines.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STOKES,
House of Commons,
April 12.

Putting oneself forward

From Dr Arthur Bowen

Sir, Sir Francis Avery Jones (April 9) pleads that conference name badges should, in the interest of clarity and visibility and aid long syne, be worn in the right lapel.

But even then it is fairly obvious that anyone who has to squint down at the badge before "greeting former friends" has either very poor memory recall or failing eyesight or both (a common finding at conferences).

The answer, of course, is to pin the name badge on the back of the coat, high up. This permits discreet scrutiny, allowing one either to go away and greet somebody else or else simply to walk round to the front and warmly welcome such an old and now identifiable friend.

Yours sincerely,
ARTHUR BOWEN,
Old Rectory House,
Chapter House Street,
York.
April 9.

The munificence of Odo

From Professor Colonel G. I. A. D. Draper

Sir, The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle may well have been silent about the proposed "export" of the Bayeux Tapestry to the episcopal monster, Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, and sometime Earl of Kent (your editorial, April 7), but it was assuredly not reticent about the massive spoliation of Saxon ecclesiastical treasures ordered by his half-brother, William the Conqueror, in the spring of 1070.

The Chronicle relates laconically: "And in the following spring the King had all the monasteries that were in England plundered." Part of that plunder found its way to Normandy.

In the summer of that same year, 1070, a Council of Norman bishops under the Papal Legate sat in

Drive to reform examination levels

From the Headmaster of Highbury Grove School

Sir, When there has been heavy investment in any enterprise there is an understandable reluctance on the part of the investor to abandon his project, especially when it has almost reached fruition. Much time, energy, expertise and goodwill has been invested in considering proposals for a new system of examination at 16-plus, and your leading article of April 7, "Classroom Realism", will be regarded as a distinctly unfriendly act by a considerable number of teachers and educationalists.

I do not expect to win many new friends (and may, indeed, lose a few old ones) when I confess that I have reluctantly reached a similar conclusion to your own. After many discussions of the proposed new system, in several different contexts and at a variety of levels, from formal working parties to informal discussions with colleagues in the education sectors, I have yet to be convinced that a merger of GCSE O levels with the CSE will not either dilute the quality (and thus damage the public credibility) of the examinations or leave us with the same uncomfortable choices that presently bedevil us.

It is inconceivable that a common paper could adequately test the full ability range, from the present O-level grade A to a CSE grade 5, without such a complicated system of options that the weakest candidates will be undone by the rubric; and if we are to have alternative papers what need is there to change the system at all?

The case for harmonization of the various subject syllabuses is surely a much stronger one, and would ease some of the problems of premature decision-making which many comprehensive schools experience and which have provided some of the impetus for a common system. It would also ensure that the consider-

Sharing our heritage

From Mr David Paton

Sir, Mr Hudson (April 3) has raised an interesting point: what is, and what should be, our policy as a nation with regard to sales of works of art overseas? But his answer, I fear, is cruder even than "what we have we hold", based as it is on simple nationalism.

Why must our efforts be concentrated on saving the works of Constable and Stubbs (consequently depriving other nations of enjoying their art) rather than the works of Italian painters? It is, after all, quite likely that the work of an artist such as Pompeo Batoni has more place in Britain than in Italy.

For my part, I am more worried when works like the *Remi and Sacchi* pictures from Spencer House cross the Atlantic; we have enough Constables for Yale and the rest to

Britain and CERN

From Professor N. Kuri, FRS

Sir, May I offer a historical postscript to Dr E. G. Michell's thoughtful and well argued letter (April 3) on CERN, and most particularly on British participation in the 300 GeV super-proton synchrotron.

In the early summer of 1968 Mrs Shirley Williams, Minister of State for Education and Science, announced that because of the high cost Mr Wilson's Government could not join the project in spite of the favourable recommendations of the Government's scientific advisers.

During the next year much work was done to reduce the cost and two British scientists, the late Sir John Adams and Dr T. G. Pickavance, had the lion's share in it.

Then, on April 18, 1970 (see *CERN Courier*, vol 10, April 1970, p 107), "the news broke that a new proposal was being presented to

Mother and son

From Ms Victoria Glendinning

Sir, There may well be no need to ask your readers to remain sceptical in the face of the campaign by the distinguished writer Anthony West to destroy the personal and professional reputation of his late mother, the more distinguished writer, Rebecca West. An obsession with family matters is recognizable at 50 yards. The public expression of it does the sufferer no good.

Dame Rebecca herself was not free from it, but the "hostility and aggression" and spitefulness of which she accuses her in the extract carried in your paper (April 6) are as nothing compared with her own unhappy exhibition of these characteristics.

In his forthcoming biography of his father, H. G. Wells, Mr West makes interesting use of the concept of "consolatory fabulism" with which one restructures the painful past, with special and punitive reference to his mother. But Mr West does not seem to take into account the depths of fabulism into

Normandy and established a series of penitential decrees binding those Normans and others who had fought in the "great battle" and misconducted themselves in England thereafter. The concluding decree provided:

"Let those who stole from churches restore what they stole to the church they robbed if they can. If they can not let them restore it to some other church. And if they will not restore it then the Bishops have decreed that they may not sell it to any man or woman but it (Bodleian Junius Collection, 121).

Many of the beautiful Saxon works of art and craftsmanship so stolen found their way to Normandy.

The Bayeux Tapestry, on the other hand, found its way to Bayeux in more respectable circumstances. At some time during the period of his great power and accumulation of wealth in England, from 1068 to 1083, Odo bestowed a large part of

able investment is not entirely wasted.

Yours faithfully,
LAWRENCE NORCROSS,
Headmaster,
Highbury Grove School,
Highbury New Park, N5.

From Mr B. W. Page

Sir, I should like to comment on only two points in your leader of April 7 opposing the amalgamation of the CSE and O-level examinations.

Firstly, in the final paragraph you talk of the "non-academic pupil (who) should leave school with a useful measure of his skills" (i.e., CSE) and the "high-academic" pupil who needs O level. This is a naive oversimplification. Between these two extremes there is an infinite gradation of capabilities and we need a coordinated examination system that can do justice to them.

In modern languages, we in the graded objectives movement have shown over several years now that such flexibility is practically possible and our experience has been reflected in the *Recommended Statement on National Criteria* for a new examination.

Secondly, you say that it would be harmful "to create a single system simply to please the egalitarians". In modern languages again the amalgamation proposals were overwhelmingly supported by the teachers, the language associations and every other body which gave its comments to the working party. There was disagreement over some details, but there was none over the main objective of creating a single examination system.

So far as can be ascertained, virtually everybody professionally connected with secondary education wants this change, and they are far from all being egalitarians.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN PAGE, Chairman,
National Coordinating Committee for Graded Objectives in Modern Language Learning,
The University of Leeds,
Leeds, West Yorkshire.

share them with us decorative paintings of the type I have mentioned, intended for specific settings (albeit the work of mere foreigners) are rather less common. Mr Hudson's letter might make more sense if its appeal were less chauvinistic; as it is, his "British culture for the British" attitude does little except muddy the waters of debate.

He ought to accept that it is possible for Italian, Dutch and French works of art to be as much part of British culture as is the work of Constable (impossible without Rubens anyway).

In deciding what can and what cannot be spared we need a rather more satisfactory criterion than the rule of thumb he proposes.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID PATON,
86 Harborough Road North,
Northampton.

European Governments . . . involving a reduction by between 25 per cent and 30 per cent of both capital and running costs.

To quote again, from the CERN *Courier* (vol 10, June, 1970, p 178), "The UK delegation stated that the refusal to join the project under the previous conditions no longer stands for the alternative proposals."

There was a general election on June 19, 1970, and Mrs Margaret Thatcher, as Secretary of State for Education and Science in Mr Heath's Government, successfully negotiated the UK's participation in the project.

In a nutshell: Shirley Williams goaded the scientists into thinking again; Margaret Thatcher took us into the project. Moral: *Foretell Somerville*.

Yours faithfully,
N. KURI,
University of Oxford,
Department of Engineering Science,
Parks Road, Oxford.

which he himself is being led by his need to restructure his own complex beginnings.

To refer, as your headline writer did, to "the mother who spent her lifetime punishing him for the fact that his father steadfastly refused to marry her" is an injustice to a young unmarried woman who brought up her son in difficult circumstances and with very little support. When she considered the pros and cons of marriage with H. G. Wells, it was in their son's interest.

Her own interest was focused elsewhere even before she and H. G. Wells parted company, and in the years before her marriage to Henry Andrews her emotional life was not, as Mr West seems to believe, defined by her continuing contact with Wells.

Ignorance of many of the facts of Dame Rebecca's life leaves Mr West with a clear field for his own mythology. And the dead, of course, cannot defend themselves.

Yours faithfully,
VICTORIA GLENDINNING,
32 North Villas, NW1.

his fortune on the foundation of the new cathedral at Bayeux, consecrated in 1077.

There is evidence that Odo commissioned the tapestry in England, from designer(s) and embroideresses, probably ladies of Kent, as part of his munificence for the new cathedral in Bayeux. Odo's prominent role in the invasion is vividly depicted in the tapestry and it is not thought likely that that could have been done after his arrest and disgrace in 1083.

It is well possible that all of us owe a great deal to "that episcopal monster, Odo" for commissioning that truly magnificent work of Saxon artistry.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
G. I. A. D. DRAPER,
16 Southover High Street,
Lewes,
Sussex,
April 8.

Resisting the call for written rules

From Sir John Colville

Sir, I observe creeping into the correspondence about the threat to local democracy (a democracy in which between 20 per cent and 30 per cent of eligible voters usually choose to participate) the horrendous plea for a written constitution. We should be proud that alone among sovereign nations we do not have one, a fact which has probably contributed to our being one of the remarkably few sovereign nations to have enjoyed long stability.

When I contemplate the appalling difficulties faced by the Americans in amending their Constitution, the rapidity with which five successive French Constitutions have become out of date, the practical impossibility of devising any that a succeeding generation will not require to change, and the dreadful tribulations of such domestic organizations as the Synod of the Church of England (and, for all I know, the MCC, the Automobile Association, the St James's Street clubs and the RSPCA) in finding the requisite majority to amend their rules, I stand astonished that anybody should seriously consider inflicting such an indignity on the Sovereign, the mother of parliaments and the judiciary.

We have a Bill of Rights, dating from 1689. Let us by all means bring it up to date and take such further steps as may be desirable to protect the individual from the Cabinet, the police and Mr Scargill. But I beg you, Sir, to thunder against a written constitution.

I am Sir, Your obedient servant,
JOHN COLVILLE,
The Close,
Brougham,
Stockbridge,
Hampshire,
April 11.

A Wellington memorial

From Sir Patrick Reilly

Sir, I have read with much interest and sympathy the Duke of Wellington's letter (April 12) about Francis British commemoration of the fallen on both sides at the siege of Bayonne in 1813-1814.

It was, I am sure, in the same spirit that in 1965 the British Army planned to commemorate the fallen at the Battle of Waterloo. Their intention was, however, gravely misunderstood and misrepresented in France; and I remember with sadness that General Crotaux and others wrote to tell me that they would not attend the Embassy reception in honour of Her Majesty's birthday because the British were about to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Waterloo.

I am so glad that at Bayonne, at least, there has been no such misunderstanding.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
PATRICK REILLY,
Hampton Cottage,
Ramsden,
Oxfordshire,
April 12.

Equity of menace

From Mr I. F. S. Vincent

Sir, In your first leader today (April 10) you comment on the "equity of menace" by the two superpowers as a popular myth among the "so-called enlightened classes of Europe" and as one which governments must dispel. But is it just a matter for governments? Does not the myth have such appeal precisely because the newspaper world is so open to the quantities of disinformation material being directed towards journalists (often through third parties) from behind the iron curtain?

Admittedly one answer to this is to have a steady flow of factual information from governments, but journalists, probably rightly, tend to shy away from such material.

It is not necessary, therefore, for journalists, or at least editorial staff, to become more watchful for disinformation and check its factual basis? Such a sceptical attitude would do more to engage "educated opinion" than the absorption of any amount of government propaganda. Yours faithfully,
I. F. S. VINCENT,
Travelers Club,
Pall Mall, SW1.

Room at the top

From The Reverend Canon Colin Slee

Sir, Your Religious Affairs Correspondent (feature, March 28) may like to visit the parish church at Great Rollright, Oxfordshire, where there is a memorial to a previous incumbent depicted in full eucharistic vestments with mitres embroidered on the chasuble.

The history informs visitors that this was a customary method of indicating bishoprics - declined, if instead of proposing archiepiscopal arm-twisting, your correspondent campaigned for the reintroduction of this early custom we would all be able to keep the score! Yours faithfully,
COLIN B. SLEE,
The Old Rectory,
Sunderland Yard,
St Albans,
Hertfordshire.

From Mr Philip Herbert

Sir, I'm sorry for this rather slow reaction. It has taken me a week or so to work out why so many Bishops of Durham become Archbishops of York.

Obviously the truth is that after the rigours of Auckland Castle, their wives accept Bishopthorpe as a soft option.

I am Sir, your obedient servant,
PHILIP HERBERT,
Linkwood Cottage,
High Street,
Newent,
Gloucestershire.

Travel: Linda Christmas visits the Wilderness of Tasmania; John Young goes golfing in Spain; and Travel News

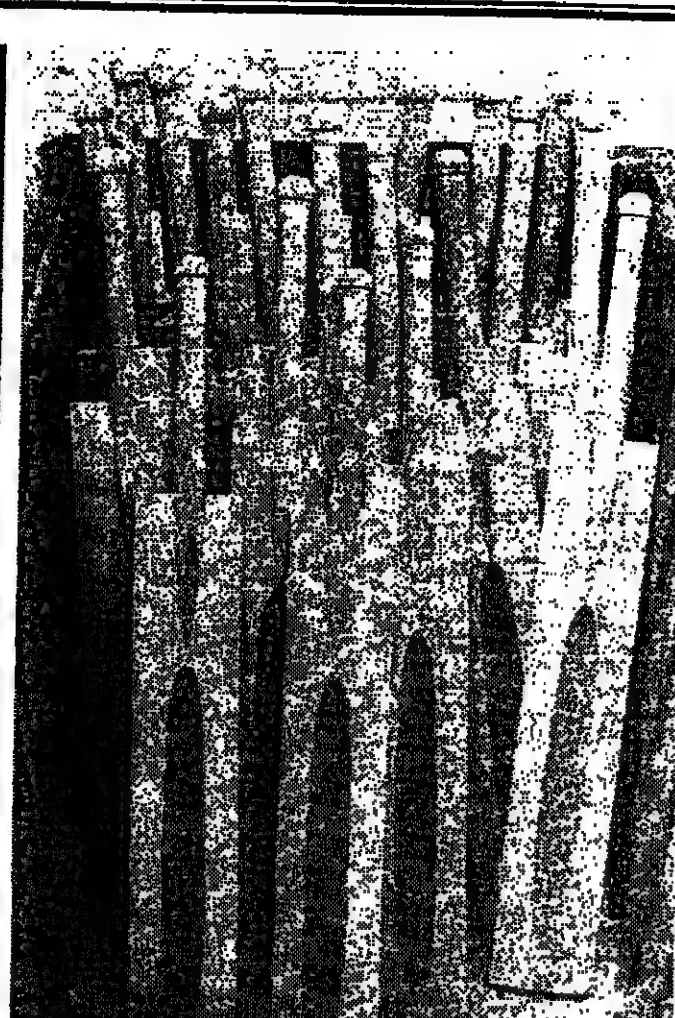
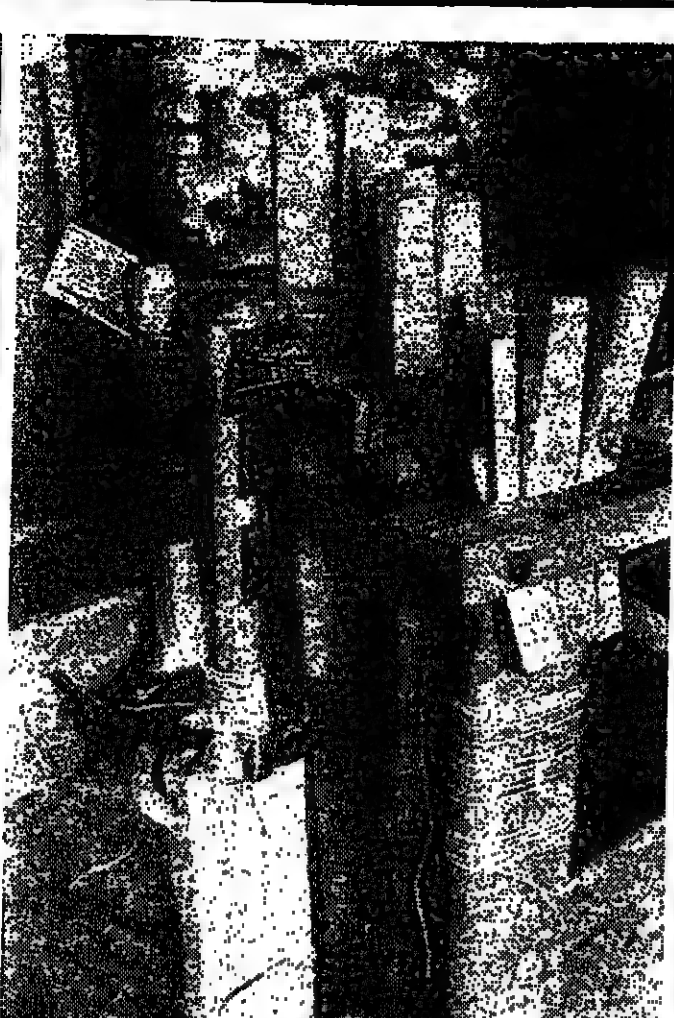
Values: Beryl Downing looks at children's shoes; Eating Out: Theme pubs; Drink: Spring-sparklers; and In The Garden

THE TIMES Saturday

Review: Paperbacks of the month; Preview: Critics' choice of Films, Concerts, Dance, Opera, Theatre, Rock & Jazz

Family Life: The Vikings brought to life; Bridge; Chess; Concise crossword; Country Diary; Out & About; and The Week Ahead

14 APRIL-20 APRIL 1984 A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS



The creative process: Pictures by Brian Harris at the Warsop-Stebbing workshop

Just as cricket is an English game, a cricket bat must be made out of English willow. Nothing else will do - not even willow grown from English stock on foreign soil. Willow is a particularly tough and supple kind of wood and it is these qualities that give it the special resilience that enables it to withstand the regular impact of a hard leather ball weighing 4½oz and travelling at 90 mph.

It takes time, care and skill to produce a good bat. The willow

tree is grown for about 15 years, until its trunk is a minimum of 52in in circumference and 20ft tall. Then it is felled and cut into four "rounds", each of which is split by wooden wedges to yield eight lengths of wood weighing about 6lb each.

These are waxed at the ends to force out the moisture and left to dry out in an unheated, open-ended shed for six to eight weeks, by which time the weight is roughly halved. Each piece of wood is then

sawn into the approximate shape of a bat and compressed in a 4-ton press, which compacts it and shows up any weaknesses.

Craftsmen then sort the wood, grade it for quality and work it by hand with drawing-knife, spokeshave and plane into the finished article. The handle, which is now usually made of laminated cane imported from the Far East, plastic-coated cane or even carbon-fibre, is fitted and glued into the blade of the bat by hand.

A top-quality bat will retail at anything up to £70; cheaper versions come at about £20. One covered by a polyurethane skin or linen skin heat-moulded to the blade will not be made of the best willow and so may be cheaper. Do not be deceived by "grain" marks on polyurethane covers. They are fake. And don't be talked into anything by the salesman. Always pick up a bat to get the "feel" of it yourself and ask for a ball to test the bounce.

The seasoning of good willow

To reach Walter Warsop's factory before the Second-World War you had to drive along the narrow, leafy lanes of Essex, find a gate in the sprawling rhododendron bushes and go round the back of a tall red-brick Victorian house in Little Baddow.

There, beside a level patch of grass that might once have been a tennis court, was a long low shed packed with chunks of willow, bundles of cane, spokeshaves, planes, chisels and woodshavings. A choked and filthy gas ring warmed a pot of smelly glue from which oozed a sick which might once have been a paintbrush.

Along the wall, a stack of cricket bats of all sizes stood inviting the touch and an amber luminosity spread from the yellowing windows. It was magic.

I was taken there, as were hundreds like me, to be bought my first cricket bat, and I made mention of it in a book. It evoked such potent memories in one Harry Crabtree (as rustic a name as that of any man who ever held a bat) that he wrote to me.

Crabtree played for Essex, and later became the supreme of all the cricket coaches at Lord's, director of physical education for Essex, and president of the Eastern Counties Rugby Union. He wrote of old Walter Warsop, the batsman: "If ever I was browbeaten off I used to slip up to Little Baddow and sit and talk to Walter as he worked. I think he must have broken every factory safety measure. He'd light his pipe with a shaving from the floor lit from the gas heating the glue."

He used to make bats specially balanced for me. He'd make it heavy at the bottom and spokes have the bulge higher up the bat. I used to love square-cutting and hitting and the lighter balance suited me.

"He achieved a remarkable record. He planted a willow set, grew it to maturity, cut it down himself, made a bat and scored a century with it. He did that twice in his lifetime."

Ah, you might say, but that was then. You don't get craftsmen like that these days: everything is done by machines. And you'd be wrong. Every year more than a quarter of a million cricket bats are made in England, and although machines take out some of the harder graft, the shaping, finishing and delicate balancing is still done by hand.

Walter Warsop died in his seventies, still playing cricket and making bats. His grandson Max now makes them in a similar hut at an old gravel pit in Danbury, not two miles away from his grandfather's home. He works with Harry Stebbing, a bat-shaper who once worked for Walter, and the Warsop-Stebbing name is well known and respected as one of the smaller firms operating today.

They make all sorts of other wooden clubs - softball bats, stoolball bats (which look uncomfortably like policemen's truncheons), hockey sticks, and they'd make baseball bats as well if their lathe was not half an inch too short and Harry could be bothered to change it. In a sport alive with legend, the batsmakers of England have been largely unsung over the

centuries. Although a form of cricket has probably been played in this country from the Middle Ages - there are references to it from 1300 onwards - what is believed to be the earliest surviving bat, now in the pavilion at the Oval in London, is inscribed "J.C. 1729". J.C. was one John Chilly.

John Small, born in 1717, is one of the game's immortals. After his death a painted sign was hung from his shop, declaring: *Here lies John Small Makes Bat and Ball Pitch a wicket. Play at Cricket With any Man in England.*

And indeed he did. It is recorded that John Small was not "clean-bowled" for several years, and once held All England bowlers at bay for three days. This was at Hambledon in Hampshire, widely but incorrectly known as the birthplace of cricket.

Originally, when bowling was truly bowling - in other words, underhand along the ground - cricket bats were curved and club-like, a cross between a hockey stick and a stone-age club. By the mid-eighteenth century, however, round-arm bowling and the "length" ball which bounced had come into the game. By the 1770s, when the wicket had evolved from two stumps into three, a gentleman called White was marketing a straight bat in the Regate area of Surrey.

The first Laws of Cricket, devised in 1744, did not regulate the size of a bat, but after an incident, also at Regate, when a batsman took guard with a bat wider than the wicket, completely obscuring sight of the stumps, the width of the bat was restricted to 4½in. There it has remained to this day.

In 1776 William Pett of Sevenoaks sold 11 bats at two shillings and sixpence each to the Duke of Dorset; he must have made an impression for two years later the "best sort of cricket bats" from William Pett had nearly doubled in price to four shillings or four and sixpence each. It is a tribute to Victorian economic management that 100 years later, in 1880, reasonably good bats sold at only seven shillings and sixpence, while the "very best cane-handled" bat cost a guinea. Today the top whack for a bat is about £70.

By the end of the nineteenth century the firms which are now household names throughout the cricket world had begun to establish themselves. Fred Lillywhite, who put up the idea and the money for the first-overseas tour by an England team - to Canada and the United States in 1859 - had set up his manufacturing base at the Oval with John Wisden, originator of the famous almanac. The firm, now called Lillywhite Frowd, still make bats, but of the name Wisden only the cricketers' bible remains.

In 1885 William Gunn, probably the first professional to play for England at both cricket and Association football (the last was Arthur Milton of Arsenal and Gloucestershire), teamed up with T. J. Moore to form Gunn and Moore in Nottingham; the firm is still there, run by Reg Simpson, a stylish Test batsman of the 1950s.



The noble art: A cricket match in 1777 at Broadhalfpenny Down, Hampshire - home of the famous Hambledon Club

Ten years earlier, L. J. Nicolls, a carpenter and handyman in Robertsbridge, East Sussex, had found a few willow trees growing on his plot of land, and begun to make cricket bats. He made them so well for 50 years that W. G. Grace not only used them but took a load to Australia to sell.

Nicolls's firm became Gray-Nicolls during the Second World War when it worked together with Gray's of Cambridge, another famous sports-goods company. It was taken over completely by Gray's about 10 years ago. It still has a telegram which reads "Send four bats to Lord's immediately. Grace" - a typically peremptory command from the autocratic doctor. It also still has on display at its Robertsbridge headquarters a photograph of W. G. at Hastings wielding the Nicolls bat with which he scored more than 2,000 runs in 1894.

In a good year Gray-Nicolls now makes more than 50,000 bats a year, and employs more than 30 craftsmen. But it has been through sticky patches: one of the worst came during

the Second World War when it tottered on the brink of bankruptcy after its premises had been commandeered for the war effort.

The Requisitioning Officer arrived, armed with powers of life and death. He turned out to be Maurice Tate, the former Sussex and England seam bowler. There was a run-down chicken farm a mile up the road. "Aha," said Tate, "England needs cricket bats more than hen's eggs," and he promptly requisitioned the farm. Nicolls were allowed to move into the chicken huts in the woods.

At the turn of the century Gilbert Jessop was gaining the sort of reputation as an attacking batsman that Ian Botham enjoys today.

Jessop acknowledged his debt to his batsman. In 1897 he scored 101 in 40 minutes against Yorkshire and in the following year he wrote to the Stuart Surridge company in London: "Dear Sir, You will be pleased to hear that one of your bats that I purchased at the Oval was used in all my matches, both first and second

class, last season. I should in all probability have been using it next season had not the damp got hold of it whilst crossing to America. Sincerely Yours, Gilbert L. Jessop."

Such a letter may be rare in the 1980s, now that manners have changed and sponsorship and the advent of international agents like Mark McCormack have introduced big money into the game. The rampant commercialism saddens old-stagers like Jock Livingston, who runs Gray-Nicolls. But he acknowledges that without sponsorship county cricket might have collapsed long ago.

Livingston, an Australian who scored thousands of runs for Northamptonshire, calculates that every one of the Test cricketers he sponsors will have cost him more than £25,000 by the time he plays for his country. He says the competition between brand-names is so fierce that companies are now "talking in telephone numbers" to attract players, and stories of skulduggery are becoming commonplace.

All the bigger firms have players on their books and a

high proportion of the 350 or so county cricketers in England are receiving aid in one form or another, if not direct financial payment. The amount varies but it is not likely to be less than the £500-worth of kit that the average county player wears out in a year: stumps like Botham or David Gower may well receive sums of up to £100,000.

Just as they set the pace financially, the big names also have a strong influence on general trends in the game and therefore on batsmakers. Today's trend is towards heavier bats. With a blunt disregard for his customers Reg Simpson says: "Heavier bats are wrecking batsmanship today. They are why you don't see good hooking or cutting any more. But because Botham uses a heavy bat everyone wants one."

The average player needs a 2lb 7oz bat, Jessop's was abnormally heavy at 2lb 9oz. Botham's weighs over 3lb, as does the one used by Clive Lloyd, the West Indian captain, but both are strong enough to bear the extra burden. Sir Don Bradman, however, had the answer, as he had to most

cricket conundrums. Asked what weight of bat he preferred, he would reply: "When I'm in form it doesn't matter what bat I use. When I'm out of form it doesn't matter either."

But Bradman wasn't paid a fortune to advertise a label; and had he been offered one he would have turned it down. The batsmakers of today would prefer things to be like that, but they have to stay in business.

Harry Stebbing's firm, Warsop-Stebbing, is one of those that does not make much of sponsorship. "The only player we have sponsored is Ray East (the Essex spin bowler) and you can hardly call him a batsman", he says. "We made him a double-sided bat, one with a straight blade both sides, and he continually gets told by wicket-keepers that he has got his bat the wrong way round. But I don't suppose we'll sell many of those."

The double-sided bat may not be a bestseller but it could not do worse than the aluminium one developed by Dennis Lillee, the Australian fast bowler. He demonstrated it in a Test match against England in Melbourne in 1979 and got

into a furious row with Greg Chappell, his captain, when he was ordered to take it off the field. The picture of him hurling it through the air in the direction of the pavilion sent ripples of shock round the world.

The Australian Cricket Board, not renowned for its strong disciplinary methods since Bradman retired, admonished Lillee, who promptly declared that the aluminium bat was the "thing of the future". However, the cricketing world apparently agreed that it just wasn't cricket. Little has been heard of it since.

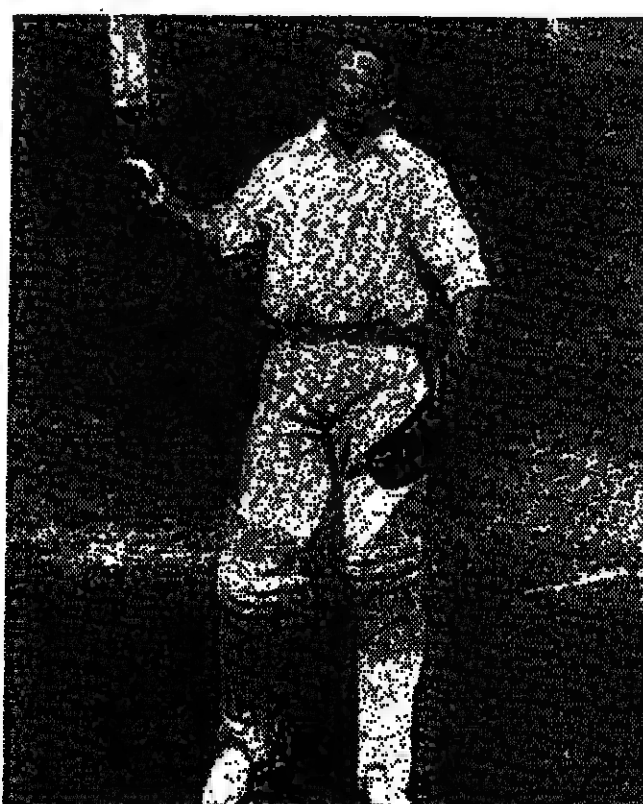
Little, but not nothing: the Australian Department of Health tested six of the aluminium bats as soup stirrers, hoping they would prove more durable than the big wooden spatulas in hospitals. But they were deemed unacceptable even for that after catering staff said they were difficult to clean.

Still, it was worth a try. Batsmakers, says Jock Livingston, have to be optimists.

John Parker

Eating out for cricketers, page 14

Straight bats and several cuts above the rest



Masters of the bat: Dr W. G. Grace (left) and Sir Donald Bradman. Grace relied on L. J. Nicolls, the Sussex batsman, for his bats and even took them to Australia to sell. Bradman scored a record six centuries in succession in the 1938-39 season

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TRAVEL/2

Nine holes in the heat of the Spanish Strip

As an occasional and very erratic golfer, I had never seriously expected to find myself playing at one of those luxurious Mediterranean country clubs which I had occasionally seen advertised. An English or Irish seaside links, midweek and preferably out of season, had hitherto been more my style. There I could back away in decent obscurity.

But an unexpected invitation arrived to spend a few days at La Manga, in the south-east of Spain, and, with my wife and children staying with her family, it seemed the perfect opportunity to sample the high life. I recalled the name vaguely from, of all places, a cricket-pavilion notice board, since the complex also includes a cricket ground and invites visits by British clubs.

At first sight, the scorched arid landscape of Murcia in late August looked less than inviting. But as we drove between the two golf courses, lush and green thanks to an army of giant sprinklers and up the hill to our beautifully sited, almost brand new hotel, our spirits rose sharply.

Although much of the surrounding landscape is mountainous, the view from the patio next morning was of a flat plain stretching away to the sea, and of the distant shapes of tall, modern buildings. They were part of the tourist resort town of Mar Menor, locally known as the Strip, which occupies a long, thin sandbank stretching for several miles between the "little sea" and the ocean.



Fore, señor: A golfer tees off to test his skills against the challenging links of La Manga.

The town is about six miles from the club, and it was there we headed after concluding, with various degrees of reluctance, that it was too hot for golf. The purpose of the expedition appeared to be no more than to have lunch, one of those immense meals that last all afternoon as one fish course follows another, and memories of which are inevitably blurred.

I do remember that we ended with champagne, supplied with the compliments of the presumably incredulous owner of the restaurant, and that in the evening we staggered on to the course to play some of the most atrocious "golf" that La Manga

can ever have witnessed.

Fortunately, hardly anyone was about, and we abandoned the unwise venture after nine holes. One of my colleagues, who takes his game rather seriously, was so appalled by the whole business that he refused to play any more for the rest of our stay, choosing to spend the next day journeying to a distant market. Since I refuse to believe that any rational man can prefer a market to a golf course, I can only conclude that his pique must have affected his judgment.

The rest of us managed to play rather better on the following days, but we were also

duty-bound to sample the club's water sports facilities. The "little sea", shallow and salty, is ideal for such activities, but it meant another journey to the town which is, frankly, rather horrible, epitomizing all that is worst in intensive tourist development. But the beach and clubhouse were apparently only a temporary arrangement, and this year visitors will be able to use a new centre near the golf course.

We were persuaded to try both waterskiing, an art which I have never managed to master, and windsurfing, which I quickly decided I was too old to start. I was put to shame by a

man who might have been in his seventies, and who performed like an overweight gazelle; however, I was more than happy to take the helm of a catamaran for an exhilarating spin across the bay.

The complex is now owned by European Ferries, the previous owners having got into financial difficulties. A substantial building programme is in process, and we were shown some attractive, if rather uniform, self-catering villas. The company assures prospective purchasers that it will try to rent them out when they are not using them, but I would not count on that to meet the loan payments.

The golf courses, by the way, are surprisingly challenging, mainly due to the presence of a huge ravine which winds itself around and across almost every hole, often in the most disconcerting places. But for the publicity brochure to describe them as "arguably the best in Europe" is somewhat overstating things.

John Young

Peter Stuyvesant Travel offer apartments for four people (accommodation only) from £180 to £224 a head for seven nights depending on season; two-person studios cost from £189 to £234 a head; a double room, hall board, at the Las Mimosa hotel costs from £260 to £305. The prices for 14 nights are £230-£298, £265-£323 and £350-£458 respectively. All prices include return flight from Gatwick, local transportation, car hire, green fees and use of tennis courts.



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'Bumped' passengers to be offered free flights

British Airways has come up with a new scheme to compensate passengers who turn up at the airport with a confirmed ticket only to find that the flight is overbooked.

"Bumped" passengers on some European routes from Heathrow will be asked if they would like to volunteer for a later flight in return for a free travel voucher.

Under the existing system operated by most European airlines, passengers whose flight is overbooked are entitled to only a 50 per cent refund of the one-way fare, subject to a ceiling of £100, and then only if they are transferred to a flight which arrives at their destination more than four hours later than their planned schedule.

BA claims that only seven passengers in every 10,000 are unable to travel on the flight they booked, half the number of three years ago.

Dover hover

Hoverspeed will be increasing its hovercraft services from Dover to Calais and Boulogne this summer, with 33 flights a day in each direction during the peak season, compared with 28 last year. The first flight of the day from Dover will be brought forward by an hour to 6am. The average price of tickets will be about 8 per cent higher than conventional ferries.

Car cuts

The price of car rentals in Ireland booked through Aer Lingus has been cut following the recent reduction in VAT. Reductions vary between about £5 and £11 per week throughout the summer, depending on the model rented.

Cruising back

The world's largest passenger ship, the 70,000-ton Norway (formerly the France), makes a brief return to British waters this summer for the first time in four years. The ship, run by Norwegian Caribbean Lines, will operate a two-night mini-cruise from Southampton to Amsterdam, departing on July 26, before continuing on a two-week voyage to the North Cape and Norwegian fjords. It returns to Southampton on September 26 to take on passengers for an 11-night cruise to Bermuda, Nassau and Miami.

Golf for gourmets

Gastronomy, golf and visits to historic sites are among the special-interest activities included in the summer "Highlife Breaks" programme just published by Thistle Hotels. A typical "gourmet weekend" at the Bedford Arms in Chertsey, Hertfordshire, offers guests an



eight-course "repas minceur" for an extra £20 per person on the bed-and-breakfast rate.

Summer savings

Jetset is cutting air fares to Toronto in May and June. The reduction applies to weekly flights from Gatwick and Prestwick between May 10 and June 28, returning from Toronto between May 18 and July 13. The fare is £259, which represents a saving of £45 on flights in May and £65 on those in June.

Child's play

Fifteen four-star hotels run by Sofitel, the French hotel chain, in France and Belgium are offering free rooms for children in July and August. The company says that parents who book well in advance can be reasonably sure of having a room next to their children. For details telephone 01-724 1000.

American dream

Arrow Air, an American airline, is offering fares between Gatwick and Tampa which undercut those on the parallel, high-density Miami route by about 10 per cent. Its advance-purchase fare to Tampa is £314 return for midweek or weekend departures, increasing in the peak season to £359 in midweek and £395 at the weekend.

Married bliss

Cunard's QE2 is making a "Wedding Anniversary" cruise to the Mediterranean, departing from Southampton on May 27, with special cut-price offers for couples celebrating their anniversary in April, May or June. Couples who have been married for 40 years or more can save up to £500 on a cabin, others can save up to £250.

Quicker trips

British Airways has cut its travelling time to Perth to 18 hours 25 minutes, three hours faster than any other service. Flight times to Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide and Brisbane have also been reduced.

Philip Ray

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REVIEW Paperbacks of the month

Fun and fantasy in the vagaries of a desert freak

Professor Reyner Banham, the architectural historian, who shares his time between the Universities of London and California, here seen wearing another Stetson, proves to be a desert addict: a desert freak in fact.

He writes in a racy modern sci-fi, high-tech larded idiom which I find refreshingly shocking and highly infectious. His talk is of numbered Interstate black-top highways, cut-offs and sand traps. His navigational information is vague and combined with dream-quality place names, like Sleeping Ute Mountain, Rummy Jim's, Zzyzx (pron. Zzyxix) and Hovenweep, builds up his desert freak mystique.

The Mojave seems to out-gun all American deserts and Banham's descriptions are fantastically splendid. As a trained observer, interested almost as much in human detritus as natural phenomena, he has all his senses at hair-trigger alertness, and his eagerness to share his enthusiasms is warming.

As a boy Banham played cowboys and Indians on the wilder parts of Moushold Heath (Old Chrome Country), then graduated to the writings of Charles Doughty and T. E. Lawrence.

The professor is no mean wordman. In his description of the solar telescope on Kitt's Peak - the last word in high-tech - he speaks of a device which lays out the sun's face flat on a table and enables those who will "to haruspicate next year's weather or cry (desire) the ultimate substance of the universe".

There are not many people about in the desert. Banham mentions the loner who lived in three culverts under the Tipton Road and became known as the Tipton Troll; and the elderly lady seen wearing a flowered dress burning up the black-top on a sit-up-and-beg bicycle miles from anywhere. Could it have been Miss Jourdain or Miss Moberly?

First published in 1958.

Scenes in America Deserts by Reyner Banham (Thames and Hudson, £4.95)
A Person from England by Fitzroy Maclean (Century Publishing £4.95)
Persius in the Wind by Freya Stark (Century Publishing £4.95)

Fitzroy Maclean's account of adventure and intrigue on both sides in the Great Game will pleasantly instruct those whose reading on the subject ended with Kim. Maclean is at his best when recounting his own adventures.

In spite of its romantic cover picture, *Persius in the Wind* (first published 1948) is not really a travel book. Freya Stark ponders such things as love, death, happiness and sorrow, with many quotes and a few anecdotes about her wanderings.

Conran Goulden

Giant steps along the historical road

There is no Gibbon but Gibbon and Gibbon is his prophet. He left six unfinished and overlapping drafts of his memoirs when he died. The *Autobiography* still circulating in *Everyman* and *World's Classics* is the abbreviated and bowdlerized version that Gibbon's friend, Lord Sheffield, hurriedly put together immediately after Gibbon's death.

This is the first time that a fuller, and carefully edited and annotated version has been available to the public. It gives in Gibbon's own words the final account that he was working towards: a minor masterpiece of eighteenth-century biography, and a fascinating commentary on the creation of that greatest English historical masterpiece, *The Decline and Fall*.

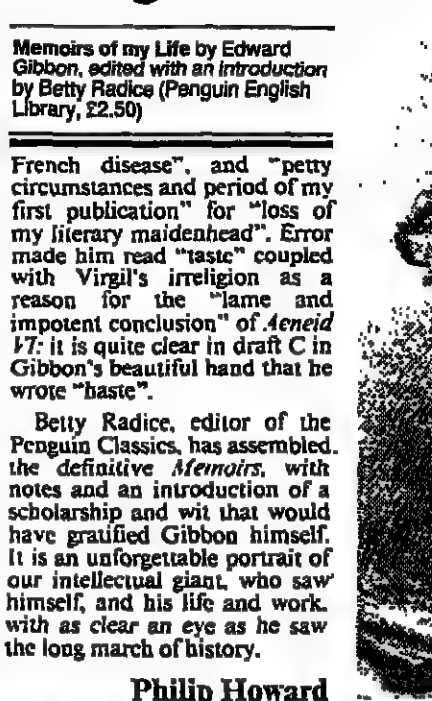
Gibbonites have been restored. Delicacy led Lord Sheffield to make such changes as "cultivation" for "manure", "Gallic phrenzy" for "the

Memoirs of my Life by Edward Gibbon, edited with an introduction by Betty Radice (Penguin English Library, £2.50)

French disease", and "petty circumstances and period of my first publication" for "loss of my literary maidenhead". Error made him read "taste" coupled with Virgil's irelligence as a reason for the "lame and impotent conclusion" of *Aeneid* 17: it is quite clear in draft C in Gibbon's beautiful hand that he wrote "haste".

Betty Radice, editor of the Penguin Classics, has assembled the definitive *Memoirs*, with notes and an introduction of a scholarship and wit that would have gratified Gibbon himself. It is an unforgettable portrait of an intellectual giant, who saw himself, and his life and work, with as clear an eye as he saw the long march of history.

Philip Howard



Wild things: Reyner Banham in the lonely expanse of Silurian Lake, California, and The Mittens in Monument Valley, Utah



Edward Gibbon

Anyone who is going to write about "Men and Women - How Different are They?" needs to have something specific to say or something startling. John Nicholson does not really have either. He adopts the tone of a kindly old woman who has listened to a lot of children arguing about something and is now going to sort it out fairly, once and for all. The question is whether male dominance is an inevitable consequence of a difference in attitudes which makes the sexes behave differently.

On the first page he explains that men and women may have different sorts of genital tracts, but it does not matter because they can be changed by surgery. He then considers various aspects of the difference between the sexes. Are men and women different in physique, in emotion, in intellect? Do they approach other people differently or have different ambitions? How different are they in their sexuality or their

Men and Women by John Nicholson (Oxford University Press, £2.50)

assertiveness? In each section the conclusion is that there are differences but they cannot be proved absolute; in most cases they are culturally imposed.

The arguments are gracefully, sometimes wittily, presented, although the literary references are often more distracting than illuminating. George Bernard Shaw's comment that "of the two sexes the woman's lot of perpetual motherhood and the man's of perpetual babyhood, I prefer the man's, or Rebecca West's that "the main difference between men and women is that men are lunatics and women idiots", do not help much.

There are occasional tantalizing bits of information. What, for instance, lay behind the Russians' revelation, after the 1964 Olympic Games, that no fewer than 10 of their 26 female champions were pregnant when

Two nations delight in a slanging match

For anyone keen to know that the French for "absolutely terrible" is *ca colle Anatole* or that "you'd think butter wouldn't melt in her mouth" translates as *elle fait la Saint-Nitouche*, this is the ideal book. It lists 50,000 modern slang terms "from the colloquial to the very vulgar" - and vulgar much of it is, to the point of prurience, you'd think though perhaps it merely shows that most modern slang is very salacious.

Looking up the entries under "French" and "Anglais", I was amused to note that our two nations' slang terms based on each other are all either derogatory or lewd.

It is curious, too, that the only British slang term for the French as such is "frogs", and their only one for us is *les rosbifs* - both pejorative and, of course, based on eating habits.

In the useful synonymy sections, pride of place goes to penis: the book lists 79 English synonyms for it and 83 French. Touché! The Australian's "one eyed trouser snake" will be most people's English

Harrap's Slang Dictionary, English-French-French-English by George A. Marks and Charles B. Johnson, completely revised and edited by Jane Pratt (Harrap, £5.95)

favourite: in French 1 especially like *andouille à col roulé*, which I won't translate.

More seriously, the book does confirm one's impression that English is much the richer language in daily idioms and colloquialisms in polite usage, while French has the more prolific in the racy, spicy argot of the student, bohemian, and working-class sub-cultures. French, more than English, is two separate languages: the "received" French of the lycée, *Larousse* and *Le Monde*, and the anti-French of the bistro, backroom and school latrine.

Countless common English colloquialisms have no French equivalent (e.g. "to know which side your bread is buttered"), much rarer are those French phrases with no English counterpart (e.g. *chercher midi à 14 heures* - to create difficulties needlessly).

Some colloquial expressions, usually those based on rural tradition, are remarkably similar in the two languages - *brûler la chandelle par les deux bouts*, *le jeu n'en vaut pas la chandelle* and *être dans la panade* (a bread-and-milk soup) all translate literally. Other phrases are quite different: "pull someone's leg" is *monter un bateau à quelqu'un*.

My only serious complaint with this beguiling book is that the authors, in their eager search for matching phrases, have made some odd slip-ups. "Step up the pace" cannot be translated by *allonger la sauce* which means "pad out a book", and *balancer le manche après la cognée* does not mean "throw out the baby with the bath water" but "give up in despair" - hardly the same. Such mistakes really make one want to throw the handle after the axehead; they are *conneries*, nay *bouffes*, nay *couillonnades*. But apart from this, Jane Pratt has done a good job with the Marks/Johnson original. *Chapeau!*

Anne Barnes

John Ardagh

No man's land in the war of the sexes

PREVIEW Theatre

Measuring success in the provinces

Measure for Measure arrives at the Barbican this week to open the Royal Shakespeare Company's third season. It comes by way of Newcastle upon Tyne after its production at Stratford last year, and Adrian Noble, its director, believes it is the better for its travels.

"The production has increased markedly in confidence, and is now in an extremely fit state as a result of Newcastle", Noble says. He is enthusiastic about the benefits of the company's annual visit there, partly because of the excellent acoustics and partly because of the "very honest" audience.

The play probably needs all it can get: it is recognized as one of Shakespeare's "more difficult works". "It refuses to answer all the questions it poses, and it is not a comfortable play. It asks distinctly awkward questions about politics, law, sexuality and religion."

Because of its difficulties, it comes in and out of fashion. "Until the last act it can be a tragedy, but it then does a back flip. It spins between scenes of great tragic propensity juxtaposed with broad low comedy, which sometimes disconcerts the critics, but not the audience, and for all its difficulties it is wonderful in performance", Noble says.

He found the audience's response at Newcastle most refreshing. They laughed more than the Stratford audience, not because they were not taking the

play seriously but because they saw the nonsense in some of the potentially tragic situations. "They are very well aware there of the twentieth century malaise of corruption and look honestly at the world."

The acoustics of the theatre enabled the cast to speak the lines in an almost conversational tone if they wished, a choice not available to them at Stratford, and thus to look at the text anew. "Coming back to the play after a few months we found new ideas, and were able to take advantage because at Stratford I had been determined to keep options open and not close down each scene for ever", Noble explains.

The play, in which the Duke of Vienna leaves the government of the city to Angelo, offers choices between the liberal rule of the former and the tyranny of the latter. It asks whether you should sacrifice something you believe in to save someone's life; it asks where the security of the state ends and mercy begins; it discusses liberty under the law, the rights of the state and the right to privacy.

They are questions which are being asked today, but Noble does not try to hammer the message too hard by having the cast in modern dress, for example. "That would be treating the audience as stupid." He has, however, moved the production from a Jacobean setting to the eighteenth century.

That was the age of enlight-



Dark comedy: Daniel Massey in the RSC's Barbican opener, *Measure for Measure*.

ment, the beginning of political idealism and a time of great political debate. It was also an age which saw capital punishment at its height, a juxtaposition which fits the conflicts in *Measure for Measure*.

In Noble's production Daniel Massey plays the Duke and David Schofield - last seen on the London stage in 1980 playing the hideously deformed Merrick in *The Elephant Man* - as Angelo. Juliet Stevenson plays Isabella, forced to choose between her honour and her brother's life. She recently won *Drama* magazine's best actress

award for her interpretation of the part. Peggy Mount is the outrageously bewigged Mistress Overdone.

Christopher Warman

Measure for Measure, Barbican (828 8795). Opens Tues at 7pm. Thereafter in repertory.

Critics' choice

THE GREAT CELESTIAL COW Royal Court (730 1745). Until Apr 21 (at least). Mon-Sat at 8pm; matinees Sat at 4pm. Delightful yet painfully relevant, Joint Stock's study of an Indian woman arriving in Britain to join her husband questions both countries' accepted notions of family life and female roles as well as the collision between immigrants and uncomprehending Leicester.

JAY FEVER Queen's (734 1166). Final performances today at 5pm and 8.15pm. Noël Coward's 1920s comedy about a theatrical family and their mixed bag of persecuted house guests remains hilarious after any number of revivals, and Penelope Keith takes to the leading lady's part as though to the bed manners bon.

LOOT Ambassadors (836 1171). Until May 5, Mon-Fri at 8pm, Sat at 5.30pm and 8.30pm; matinees Tues at 3pm. Joe Orton's macabre farce, juggling corpses and bank hauls, still proves hilarious and outrageous in Jonathan Lynn's revival, with Gemma Craven as the bent Irish nurse and Leonard Rossiter as the sadistic Inspector Truscott.

LYCK OF LIES Park (437 3686). Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 5pm and 8.15pm; matinees Wed at 3pm. Hugh Whitmore's powerful study of a decent couple whose quiet suburban life is destroyed by a

Kroger-style spy case. Judi Dench and Michael Williams find impressively tragic performances. **POPPY NONGENA** Riverside Studios (748 3354). Until May 6, Tues-Sun at 8pm. This acclaimed show from black South Africa arrives in London at last; a story of a harassed, endlessly wandering family that is both tragic and uplifting.

SAINT JOAN Olivier (828 2252). Wed and Thurs at 7.15pm; matinees Thurs at 2pm. In repertory with *Guns and Dolls* by Frank Loesser (today at 2pm and 7.15pm, Mon and Tues at 7.15pm; matinees Tues at 2pm). In Ronald Eyre's spectacular production, Shaw's great play fills especially this vast auditorium without ever quite losing the double it always raises. Strong cast, led by Frances de la Tour.

SEE HOW THEY RUN Shaftesbury (930 8577). Until May 5, Mon-Fri at 8pm, Sat at 5.30pm and 8.30pm; matinees Wed at 3pm. Ray Cooney's all-star revival (Maureen Lipman, Derek Nimmo, Christopher Timothy, Michael Denison) of Philip King's glorious wartime farce featuring a village spinster and a stageful of real and spurious vicars.

A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE Marmalade (236 5588). Mon-Sat at 7.45pm; matinees Sat at 3pm. Gripping new revival of Tennessee Williams' masterpiece, interestingly reinterpreted by director Alan Strachan and with Sheila Gish in the central role.

Out of Town

BIRMINGHAM Repertory (021 236 4455). Hamlet. Until May 5, Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 8pm; matinees Thurs at 2.30pm, Sat at 4pm. Simon Cadell as the Prince with Sylvia Kay as Gertrude, Malcolm Tierney as Claudius, Peter Howell as Polonius; directed by Peter Fargo.

BRISTOL Old Vic (0272 24388). The Peppier Days of Your Lives by John Dighton. Until May 5, Mon-Fri at 7.15pm (not Apr 30), Thurs-Sat at 7.45pm (not Apr 20); matinees Thurs at 3pm, Sat at 4pm. Classic 1940s school farce, with Carol Gillies, Bill Wallis, Graham Gurney, Peter Copley, Susan Brown. Directed by Anthony Cornish.

BRISTOL New Vic (0272 24388). Willford by Peter Woodward. Until Apr 28, Mon-Wed at 7.15pm. Thurs-Sat (not Apr 20) at 7.45pm. World premiere production of this free-handed play which looks at First World War poet Wilfred Owen, his brother Harold and Siegfried Sassoon. Andy Hinds directs Robert Swann, Ian Gelder, Barrie McGinn.

EDINBURGH Royal Lyceum (031 223 9637). The Master Builder by Henrik Ibsen. Until Apr 28, Tues-Thurs at 7.30pm, and Sat at 8pm. Lindsay Galloway's adaptation changes the setting to Scotland for what is often regarded as Ibsen's finest and most personal play. Robert Urquhart leads a company directed by Leslie Lawton.

EDINBURGH Traverse (031 226 2633). 1984: Points of Departure. Until May 6, Tues-Sat at 8pm, Sun at 3pm. In *Descent* by Simon Donald; *Purity* by Chris Hannan; *The Clean Sweep* by Stuart Paterson; three new plays by new writers, presented before being taken to Holland for Fairground 84, at the Micky Theatre, Amsterdam, in June.

GUILDFORD Yvonne Arnaud (0483 60191). Way Upstream by Alan Ayckbourn. Until Apr 28, Mon-Fri at 7.45pm, Sat at 8pm and 8.30pm; matinees Thurs at 2.30pm. Ayckbourn's comedy of errors on a riverboat holiday. The boat is on stage on pivots (not in a water-tank as at the National Theatre). David Roper, Geraldine Gardner, directed.

LEEDS Playhouse (0532 442111). Alice by Richard Scott and Anthony Phillips. Final performances today at 3pm and 7.30pm. Passion Play by Peter Nichols. Opens Thurs at 7.30pm. Until May 12, Mon and Tues at 8pm, Wed-Sat at 7.30pm. Award-winning "adult comedy" now in the West End again.

STRATFORD Royal Shakespeare Theatre (0789 295623). The Merchant of Venice. Wed at 7.30pm, Thurs at 1.30pm and 7.30pm. In repertory. New production, directed by John Caird, with Ian McDiarmid as Shylock, Adam Barham as Bassanio, Frances Tomelty as Portia.

Henry V. Today at 1.30pm and 7.30pm, Mon, Tues, Fri at 7.30pm. In repertory. Kenneth Branagh leads in the first new production of the play at Stratford since 1977. Adrian Noble directs a cast including Sebastian Shaw, Harold Innocent.

The Other Place (0789 295623). Camille by Pam Gems. Wed and Thurs at 7.30pm. In repertory. Ron Daniels directs a new play in its premiere production. Based on the Dumas story *La Dame aux Camélias*, it features music by Liszt, choreography by Anthony van Laest. Frances Barber is Marguerite.

A Midsummer Night's Dream. Today at 7.30pm, Mon and Tues at 7.30pm. In repertory. Sheila Hancock directs Roger Allain, Penny Downie.

ENGLISH ROMANESQUE ART 1616-1200. One of the major figures in the British arts and crafts movement during the first half of this century, Ethel Malet was influential in many areas connected with textiles and weaving, both through her writings and the example of her own work.

ANTHONY CARO Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2 (402 6075). Until May 28, Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat and Sun 10am-7pm. In what might be called a partial retrospective, this tribute to one of Britain's leading middle-generation sculptors skims the development section and the welded-steel abstractions which first brought Caro before the public in the 1960s. It begins instead 15 years ago with the works of his maturity. No revelations, but clear evidence of why Caro is where he is today.

AIA: THE STORY OF THE ARTISTS INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, London NW3 (435 2643). Until Apr 24, Mon-Sat 11am-6pm (Fri 8pm), Sun 2-6pm. The Artists International Association, founded in 1933 and surviving until the 1950s, was a group of vaguely left-wing British artists who believed in the necessary social commitment of art and practised what they preached. Its members included some famous names, from Spencer to Nicholson, but most are now half-forgotten. Still, a show which brings back vividly the tone of the time, and reveals a few interesting artists, such as the caricaturist James Boswell and the surrealist Peter Peck.

MARTIN BLOCH 1883-1953 South London Art Gallery, Peckham Road, London SE5 (703 6120). Until May 3, Tues-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 3-6pm. One of the very few new discoveries of the past few years who seems to be genuinely important, a major painter unjustly forgotten because he somehow slipped between two cultures, the German in which he started, and the British he gratefully adopted in 1933. The large show of works from all periods of his career is a revelation: his German works are distinctive, but his British ones are unique. No one has ever understood better than Bloch the way sunlight filters through London fog.

JOHN HOYLAND Castlefield Gallery, 5 Campfield Street, Manchester (261-532 8034). Until Apr 22, Tues-Sat 10.30am-6pm, Sun 12-4.30pm. A chance to see works done by Hoyland in his retrospective at the Serpentine in 1979, this time in the setting of a brand new gallery.

A CIRCLE OF PORTRAITS AND SELF-PORTRAITS Marlborough Graphics, 39 Old Bedford Street, London W1 (629 5161). Until May 12, Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-12.30pm. Avigdor Arish, Frank Auerbach, Lucian Freud and R. B. Kitaj are foreign figurative artists who are mutual friends and have made London an important centre for their work. This exhibition of prints and drawings from the past decade finds common ground in each artist's interest in the human face and his use of immediate family or close friends as sitters.

BARNETT FREEDMAN Gillian Jason Gallery, 42 Inverness Street, London NW1 (267 4838). Until May 18, Tues-Sat 10.30am-5.30pm. Though Freedman's book illustrations remain well-known, most of his other work - paintings, drawings, lithographs - has been quite neglected since his death in 1958. Now they have been taken out from storage and are being shown again, revealing an artist of rare integrity and consistency, whose vision remained constant whatever medium of fine or decorative art he was working in.

ENGLISH ROMANESQUE ART 1616-1200. One of the major figures in the British arts and crafts movement during the first half of this century, Ethel Malet was influential in many areas connected with textiles and weaving, both through her writings and the example of her own work.

PREVIEW Galleries



IMAGE OF THE WEEK: Walter Crane dressed as the painter Cimabue, by Emery Walker, 1885 (see Victorian Art World)

8, Mon-Wed 10am-6pm, Thurs-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun noon-6pm Artistic activity in Norman England produced such great illuminated manuscripts as the Winchester Bible; the richly coloured stained glass of Canterbury Cathedral; the gilt Gloucester Candlestick and the finely carved ivory Bury St Edmunds Cross, as well as sculpture to embellish the new churches. The finest surviving works are exhibited, together with an audio-visual programme on the buildings.

SILVER ON SHOW Burghley House, Stamford, Lincolnshire (0780 52451). Until Oct 7, Mon-Sat 11am-5pm, Sun and Good Friday 2-6pm. A selection of silver objects from the Elizabethan to the Edwardian periods displayed in the State Rooms and Great Hall of Burghley House, Stamford, Lincolnshire. Most of the pieces have not been seen in public for many years.

A WEAVER'S LIFE: ETHEL MALET Crafts Council Gallery, 12 Waterloo Place, Lower Regent Street, London SW1 (930 4811). Until May 27, Tues-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm.

One of the major figures in the British arts and crafts movement during the first half of this century, Ethel Malet was influential in many areas connected with textiles and weaving, both through her writings and the example of her own work.

MICHAEL AYRTON Agnès's, 3 Albemarle Street, London W1 (829 8176). Ends Thurs, Mon-Thurs 9.30am-5.30pm. Ayrton was one of British modern art's few true intellectuals, as handy with the pen and the typewriter as in his studio working on paintings and sculpture, and he left a rich and complex legacy which we are only now beginning to sort out. This show includes paintings and sculptures, and aims to confirm the feeling that his earlier Neo-Romantic paintings and drawings were his best.

NIGHT TRICK The Photogallery, 41 Charter Street, Cardiff (0222 41887). Until May 12, Tues-Fri 10.30am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-6pm. Photographs by Winston Link of the Norfolk and Western Railway in America. These well crafted works of art capture the schoomboy's love of steam trains and provide a slice of the everyday life which grew up around this particular railroad. A delicious view of America during the late-1950s, a period we now seem to regard with increasing nostalgia. Plenty of drama and atmosphere.

VICTORIAN ART WORLD IN PHOTOGRAPHS National Portrait Gallery, 2 St Martin's Place, London WC2 (930 1532). Until June 24, Mon-Fri 10am-6pm; Sat 10am-6pm; Sun 2-6pm. Photographic studies proliferated during the Victorian period and any famous person was likely to be photographed for family and friends or to satisfy the public's curiosity. These in the art world were no exception. This exhibition concentrates on photographs of Victorian painters, their families, studios and models. A large section on the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood includes some rare photographs of Holman Hunt.

Theatre: Irving Wardle and Anthony Young: Photographs: Michael Young: Galleries: John Russell Taylor and Louise Nicholson

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PREVIEW Films

All at sea with Fellini and a rhinoceros

"I speak - I narrate", mutters Freddie Jones in tones of exquisite befuddlement, "but just what am I narrating?" It is a pertinent question, for he plays the major role in *And the Ship Sails On*, Federico Fellini's latest film, where bizarre spectacle, outlandish specific meaning by several nautical miles.

What we see, at least, remains clear. A luxurious ocean liner called Gloria N sails across the Bay of Naples in the summer of 1914 with a glittering company of opera singers, musicians, aristocrats, politicians, and European nobility - plus one slumbering rhinoceros, smelling out the hold. Except for the rhino, bound for a zoo, all are heading for the maritime funeral of a legendary opera star; arrangements are complicated by the arrival on board of Serbo-Croatian refugees and the looming presence of an Austro-Hungarian battleship.

The voyage takes place entirely in the Cinecittà studios, Rome, across a sea of cellophane 1,000ft wide. British players dominate a large cast



There she goes: Excited passengers catch a glimpse of the rhino in Fellini's bizarre saga

chosen for their relative unfamiliarity. Inevitably, performers shared the confusion voiced by Freddie Jones's character (a tipsy journalist endeavouring to keep track of the ship's celebrities). The script changed before their very eyes, and the purposes of their actions were determinedly kept hidden; to add to the fun, shooting was conducted in a

total of five languages. (The version in English, dubbed in Rome by Michael Hodges, director of *Flash Gordon*) After 14 frenzied weeks, Fellini's voyage was in the can, leaving a rush of post-production work before the film's premiere at the Venice festival last September. This strange creation began life in 1979 as a sketchy story

about the causes of the First World War, committed to paper simply to secure a production advance. By the time \$800,000 had been found (from various companies in Italy and France, including Italian television), the original design had faded and Fellini's idiosyncratic worldview surged forward. "I wanted to show a colourful and contented era when the individ-

ual was significant", he said, "a time when people were extraordinarily inhabited by forces of nature, by all the elements of earth, sea, and sky".

Yet for all these elements to be real for Fellini, they have to be artificial, soaked in magic, hence the cellophane sea, the painted sky, and the other extraordinary sights built over eight stages at the Cinecittà studios. Freddie Jones, who ends the film perched in a lifeboat with the rhinoceros, found the experience baffling but bracing: "Working with Fellini", he explained during production, "is a bit like standing on one leg in a force nine gale". Fellow actor Peter Celler preferred a comparison the director himself would surely relish: "Federico makes us feel as if we're back in the world, floating in amniotic fluid."

Geoff Brown

And the Ship Sails On (cert PG) opens in London on Thurs at the Academy cinema, Oxford Street, London W1 (437 2381).



Down to earth: Joseph, Mary and Jesus in Pasolini's *The Gospel According to St. Matthew*

Critics' choice

NEVER CRY WOLF (PG)
Classic Haymarket (839 1527)
An ill-equipped government biologist, assigned to study Arctic wolves, becomes sucked into the mystery and wonder of life in the raw. As indeed we do. A highly appealing second feature by Carroll Ballard, director of *The Black Stallion*, mixing wild-life adventure and quirky comedy with a poetic contemplation of man and nature. Charles Martin Smith gives an amusing lead performance; the wolves are good, too.

THE RIGHT STUFF (15)
Warner West End (439 0791)
Tom Wolfe's novel about America's space pioneers, brought to the screen as a sumptuous, three-hour epic. The style veers between irreverent comedy and worshipping, patriotic drama; compulsive viewing with sharp insights into space-race ballyhoo. It won a clutch of Oscars, including those

for the best original score and the best achievement in film editing.

RUMBLE FISH (18)
Gala Bloomsbury (837 1177/8402)
Francis Coppola's latest film defies all categories: a black and white fantasy about youthful hopes and alienation, shot with determined poetic intent and meshed with a riveting rhythmic score by Stewart Copeland (from the rock group The Police). Featured players Matt Dillon and Mickey Rourke effortlessly merge into the crazy fabric of shadows, scudding clouds and surreal compositions. Based on a novel by S. E. Hinton.

SILKWOOD (15)
Odeon Leicester Square (930 8111)
The disturbing story of nuclear plant employee Karen Silkwood, dubbed by one "the first nuclear martyr" after her death in a mysterious car accident. Mike Nichols, returning to films after eight years, directs with modesty and sobriety; Meryl Streep gets off her high horse and gives enjoyable life to a prickly, lower-class heroine. With Kurt Russell, Cher, Craig T. Nelson.

STREAMERS (18)
Gale Notting Hill (221 0220/757 5750) until Apr 25
Robert Altman's latest film continues his new love affair with the theatre. David Rabe's stark play about young, green soldiers waiting for shipment to Vietnam is simply but pungently brought to the screen with vivid performances and an acute sense of emotional claustrophobia.

SWANN IN LOVE (18)
Lumiere, St Martin's Lane (840 0000)
Volker Schlöndorff's film merely dips into Proust's *A la recherche du temps perdu*, but therein lies its success. The episode of Swann's infatuation with the beautiful but dubious Odette is conveyed with

lucidity, calm, exquisite photography (Sven Nykvist) and a central performance from Jeremy Irons that expertly captures the melancholic elegance of Proust's bohemian Jew. Ornella Muti co-stars; splendid support from Alain Delon as Baron de Charlus.

TENDER MERCIES (PG)
Classic Oxford Street (833 0310)
Quietly restructured in 1983, Bruce Beresford's atmospheric drama returns to London boasting two Oscars. Robert Duvall won the award for best actor for his portrayal of a former country-and-western singer coming to terms with himself and his past; the film was also judged to have the best screenplay written directly for the screen.

TO BE OR NOT TO BE (PG)
Cinecittà Pantin Street (930 0631)
Classic Chelsea (352 5096)
Odeon Kensington (602 6644)
Studio Oxford Circus (437 3300)
Ernst Lubitsch's acerbic comedy wartime classic about Polish actors outwitting Nazi minions, ingeniously remade as a vehicle for Mel Brooks and his wife Anne Bancroft. The original script's brilliant structure survives, unaltered (along with much dialogue).

VERTIGO (PG)
Classic Chelsea (352 5096)
Classic Screen (437 3300)
Portobello Road (229 3694)
Plaza Piccadilly Circus (437 1234)
Long-awaited revival of Hitchcock's 1958 thriller, in which James Stewart's ex-detective with a fear of heights is obsessed and confused by Kim Novak. Sleek and preposterous on the surface, with turbulent emotions bubbling underneath.

The information in this column was correct at the time of going to press. Last changes are often made and it is advisable to check, using the telephone numbers given.

Marxist masterpiece on Jesus

Easter week brings showings of three films with a biblical flavour. The first two might be labelled, respectively, Hollywood vulgar and Hollywood reverential, while the other is the finest screen treatment so far of the life of Christ.

Today's offering (Channel 4, 2.30-4.35pm) is Cecil B. de Mille's *The Sign of the Cross* which was made in 1932 by a master showman with no pretensions to high art and can still, after more than 50 years, disarm the scoffers.

A tale of the coming of Christianity to Rome, it combines lavish spectacle with a refreshing refusal to take itself seriously. Claudette Colbert takes a bath in asses milk; Charles Laughton makes a miming Nero; and the censor turns a blind eye to what was, for the time, a pretty fair orgy. From this splendid nonsense it is an abrupt change of mood for *The Greatest Story Ever Told* (BBC2, Thurs, 10pm). The integrity of the project, the impeccable five years in the planning, that fine Swedish actor Max von Sydow to play Jesus and directed by one of Hollywood's most admired craftsmen, George Stevens. Unfortunately the liveliness of treatment which had been a characteristic of Stevens' early career had been gradually evaporating through films like *Shane* and *Giant* and was just now almost dried up. *The Greatest Story Ever Told* lasts nearly four hours and seems even longer; the greatest story

Films on TV

becomes the most boring movie.

It will be a relief on Good Friday to turn to Pier Paolo Pasolini's *The Gospel According to St. Matthew* (Channel 4, 10.35pm-12.55am), made the year before Stevens' epic on a fraction of the budget but with many times the artistry, an achievement the more remarkable given the political sympathies of the director.

Pasolini was an avowed Marxist who had been arrested after a previous film for insulting the church. And yet he was able to separate the institution from the man and treat the life of Jesus with eloquence and understanding.

His interpretation of Christ, as an angry young man in a hurry, may not be everyone's but it is realized with such cinematic skill that it commands respect. While Stevens' film is Hollywood artifice at its most oppressive, Pasolini achieves an almost documentary freshness and immediacy.

In this he was helped by his choice of actors and locations. While Stevens shot in Utah (as being "more like Palestine than Palestine") Pasolini eschewed such grandeur for the sparse landscapes and poor villages of southern Italy. Where *The Greatest Story* constantly distracts by offering up well-known Hollywood faces in cameo parts, Pasolini used only non-pro-

fessional actors. His Jesus was Enrique Irazoqui, a Catalan student; his St. Matthew was Ferruccio Nuzzo, a music critic; and for the Virgin Mary he cast his own mother.

Peter Waymark

Also recommended
Father of the Bride (1950): Vincente Minnelli's nicely handled comedy in which Spencer Tracy and Joan Bennett contemplate the marriage of their daughter (Elizabeth Taylor) (BBC1, tomorrow, 1.55-3.25pm).
Roman Holiday (1953): Romance in Rome between a princess (Audrey Hepburn) and a newspaperman (Gregory Peck) given a light touch by director William Wyler (BBC2, tomorrow, 3.25-5.20pm).
The Taking of Pelham 123 (1974): Terse thriller about the hijacking of a New York subway train, with Walter Matthau, Robert Shaw and Martin Balsam (BBC1, Tues, 10.15pm-midnight).
Britannia Hospital (1982): Lindsay Anderson's much discussed black comedy which uses a strike-bound hospital as a metaphor for contemporary Britain (Channel 4, Tues, 9-11.15pm).
A Man Alone (1955): Interesting and unusual Western directed by its star, Ray Milland (BBC2, Wed, 5.40-7.15pm).
The Man in Grey (1943): The classic Gainsborough melodrama that helped to make Margaret Lockwood and James Mason the most popular British stars of the period (Channel 4, Fri, 2.50-4.30pm).
Kes (1969): Barry Hines's novel about a boy and his pet kestrel, directed with his television-style realism by Ken Loach (BBC2, Fri, 8.05-7.55pm).
* First British television showing.

PREVIEW Music



Trio fantastique: From left, Ravel, Berlioz, Schoenberg (Barbican and QEH tomorrow)

WOOD SYMPHONY
Today, 7.30pm, Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street, Liverpool (051 709 3789)
The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic provides a rare chance of hearing Hugh Wood's fine Symphony, John Lill solos in Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No.1, and the overture to Mozart's for *The Magic Flute*. Brian Wright conducts.

RACHMANINOV
Today, 7.30pm, St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (222 1061)
Rachmaninov's chamber *Vespers* composed, without an interval, the whole of the New Westminster Choral's programme. Alain Judt conducts, and the soloists are Anne-Marie Owens and Peter Brondor.

KULENOVIC
Tomorrow, 11.30am, Wigmore Hall, 35 Wigmore Street, London W1 (935 2141, credit cards 930 9232)
The Badgrate Strings play Vuk Kulenovic's *Raskovnik*, Shostakovich's Chamber Symphony Op.110, Purcell's G minor Chaconne, Elgar's E minor Serenade and other works.

PERLEUTER ANNIVERSARY
Tomorrow, 3pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (928 3191, credit cards 828 6544)
Vlado Perlemuter celebrates his eightieth birthday as few of us could, with a South Bank Chopin recital: Sonata No.3, Ballade No.4, Etudes Op.25, Trois Nouvelles Etudes.

SUBTERRANEAN MEMORIES
Tomorrow, 3pm, Institute of Contemporary Arts, The Mall, London SW1 (930 3647)
The Electro-Acoustic Music Association presents another unmissable Sunday afternoon at the ICA with the London premiere of Leleup's *Mémoires*.
Souvenirs and Fitzsimmons's *Pasticcio*, the British premiere of Ruzicka's *Delicade* and *Vagabond*, which gained first prize at the Newcom Computer Music Festival. Also to be heard is Radulescu's *Incandescence*. Serene, an old favourite with ICA regulars.

BOCHMANN BEETHOVEN
Tomorrow, 6.30pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1 (242 8032)
The Bochmann Quartet play Beethoven's Quartet Op.59 No.3.

Concerts

Haydn's Op.50 No.1 and Dvorák's Op.96 "The American"

THEIR INFLUENCE
Tomorrow, 7.15pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall
The Philharmonia's "Mahler, Strauss and their Influence" series continues with Strauss's *Le Bourgeois Gentleman* and *Prelude and Dance* from *Arlecchino* and *Naxos*, Mahler's *Rückert Lieder* (Florence Quivar, mezzo) and Schoenberg's *Begegnungsmusik zu einer Lichtspielweise*. Simon Rattle conducts.

FROM MONTREAL
Tomorrow, 7.30pm, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (628 8755, credit cards 638 8891)
Under Charles Dutoit the Montreal Symphony Orchestra plays Ravel's *Rhapsodie Espagnole* and Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique*, and Martha Argerich solos in Prokofiev's piquant Piano Concerto No.3.

SPOHR BICENTENARY
Mon, 1pm, St John's
Yuri and Dana Mazurkevich perform Rawsthorpe's Variations for two violins, Sarasate's *Narrative*, Handel's Sonata Op.2 No.4 and Spohr's Duo Op.39 No.3. It's all part of the Spohr bicentenary celebrations.

LORENZ-OKABE/SHIBATA
Mon, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall
Marie Lorenz-Okabe (flute) and Aki Shibata (guitar) interpret Holmboe's Sonata Op.71, Mozart's Sonata K.331, Castelnuovo-Tedesco's *Sonatina*, Berkeley's *Sonatina*, Villa-Lobos's *Distribuição de Flores*, Paganini's *Cantabile*.

ARTISTS AT SIX
Tues, 6pm, Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 (928 3191, credit cards 828 6544)
In the Park Lane Group's "Young Artists at Six" series Melinda Maxwell and the Fairfield Cavanet play Matthews's Oboe Quartet, Webern's String Quartet, Knussen's *Canzoni (sic)* and Dvorák's Quartet Op.96 "The American".

CONCORD
Tues, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall
The Concord quartet plays Kjel Beaklund performs Ives's monumental "Concord" Sonata.

Kvandal's Phantasies in the Style of a Norwegian Folk-song, and Grieg's little-known yet remarkable Norwegian Folk-songs Op.66.

EIGHT DECADES
Tues, 7.45pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall
The most recent lap of the London Sinfonietta's "Music of Eight Decades" marathon brings us Stockhausen's *Kontra-punkte*, Dallapiccola's *Sex Carmina Alceste*, Berlioz's *Circles* and the world premiere of Midway's Saxophone Concerto (soloist, John Hale).

BAROQUE FLICKERS
Wed, 7.30pm, British Music Information Centre, 10 Stratford Place, London W1 (493 8567)
The Chander's Wind Ensemble gives the world premiere of Leigh-Hunt's *Baroque Flickers*. Timms's *Choral Prelude* and Crane's *Sextet No.2*. Admission free.

ULTRAMARINE
Wed, 7.30pm, Guildhall School of Music, Silk Street, London EC2 (251 6472)
Harry Legge conducts the British Youth Wind Orchestra in the world premiere of John Hopkins's *Ultramarine*. They also give the London premiere of Salzedo's *Procesiones* and Russell Bennett's *Autobiography*.

PARADISE WALK
Wed, 7.30pm, St John's
Dellus's *Wink to the Paradise Garden* begins this programme by the Nottinghamshire County Orchestra conducted by Christopher Adair. Elgar's *Cockaigne Overture*, Stravinsky's *Firebird Suite* and a Martinu rarity, his *Symphony No.8*, are also included.

IN GYPSY STYLE
Wed, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall
Regis Pasquier and Bruno Rigutto play Enescu's delightful Sonata in Popular Gypsy Style; also sonatas for violin and piano by Mozart (K.481), Beethoven (Op.98) and Ravel.

JOHNSTONE/LATIMER
Thurs, 7.30pm, Purcell Room
A distinctly unusual programme is offered by David Johnstone and Mark Latimer, including what is claimed to be the UK premiere of Honnegger's Cello Sonata of 1922. Also slated for performance are Roger's Sonata Op.78, Tchaikovsky's *Pezzo Capriccioso* and the London premiere of Feiland's *Militaria Suite*.

MACHITO
Tonight and Mon to Sat, Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Frith Street, London W1 (639 0747)
The senior expatriate of Cuban music, Frank "Machito" Grillo runs a band specializing in paint-stripping brass, warm-grained saxophones and relentless rhythm. No wonder Scott's clears a space for dancers in front of the bandstand. Listen out for the lush ballad singing of Paula Grillo, and for the majestic trumpet solos of Alfredo "Chocolate" Armentier.

BIONNE WARWICK
Tonight, Blazer's Club, Windsor; tomorrow, Citta Pavilion, Southend-on-Sea; St Devine's Hall, Cardiff; Tues, Portsmouth Guildhall; Wed, Brighton Centre; Fri, Winter Gardens, Bournemouth. Her 20-minute medley of two dozen songs by Burt Bacharach and Hal David constitutes one of the finest musical wonders of the modern world. She also reminds us that the genius was as much hers as Bacharach's by delivering songs from other composers, such as Barry Manilow and the brothers Gibb. No other figure from the early 1980s has survived with such elegance and dignity.

GEORGE COLEMAN
Tonight and tomorrow, But's Head, Barnes Bridge, London SW13 (876 5241)
Who plays hard top with more fire and authority than this senior saxophonist, who grew up in Memphis with Booker Little before being thrust into the limelight with Miles Davis's great quintet of the middle 1960s?

GANG OF FOUR
Tomorrow, Hammersmith Palais, 242 Shepherd's Bush Road, London W6 (748 2847)
Suddenly, the Gang of Four are playing their farewell concerts. Was it their fo-faced interviews with the music papers that put of an audience which apparently preferred the puerile antics of the Clash? "Essence Rave" to "Is This Love"? The Gang of Four rarely failed to stimulate - particularly in live performance, where Andy Gill's crack-brained guitar and Hugh Burns' drums came into their own.

COCTEAU TWINS
Mon, New Ocean Club, Cardiff

COVENT GARDEN: The Royal Opera's Covent Garden Proms begin on Mon with Gellera's *Capuleti e i Montecchi*, conducted by Riccardo Muti, and continue with Verdi's *Rigoletto*, with Sherrill Milnes in the title role (Tues), and another revival, Mozart's *Così fan tutte* (Thurs). Tickets go on sale one hour before the curtain rises and cost £3 (one only per applicant); 700 are to be sold each night. The Opera House is also issuing an £8 voucher which, if presented with a Prom ticket stub, will reduce the ticket price for a number of future performances. Reservations for non-promenade tickets may be made on the usual telephone number. (240 1068/1911)

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
Opening on Thurs at St Martin's

Rock & Jazz

Tues, Power House Ballroom, Elmwood, West, Tiffany's, Newcastle; Thurs, Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh
Rising without apparent effort above the inert mass of their colorful contemporaries, the Cocteau Twins have something - a superb female voice, mostly strong enough to catch any ear. Under the non-de-disco "This Mortal Coil", their version of Tim Buckley's "Song to the Siren" showed real class.

JOHN WILLIAMS OCTET
Tues, Prince of Orange, 118 Lower Road, Rotherhithe, London SE16; Wed, Bull's Head, London SW13 (See above); Thurs, Seven Dials Jazz Club, 45 Earlham Street, London WC2
Neither the classical guitarist nor the millionaire composer of epic



Blues boy: B. B. King, still capable of catching fire.

Hollywood soundtracks, this John Williams plays a baritone saxophone and leads a compact, adventurous octet without reprieve, according to the last time I heard it, includes pearls from the West Coast era alongside contemporary pieces, many from the leader's own pen.

B.B. KING
Wed, Newcastle City Hall; Thurs, Hammersmith Odeon, Queen Cane Street, London W6 (748 4081)
Not to be too morbid about it, but the blues won't be here for ever. (Just ask someone who never quite managed to get along to a Muddy Waters concert.) Riley "Blues Boy" King may have nights when his playing seems tired and less than completely fresh, but on other occasions he can still catch fire.

FLOUT UP C.P.
Fri, The Diorama, 14 Peto Place, London NW1
As the Pop Group begot Rip Rig & Panic, so Rip Rig & Panic appear to have given birth to the Flout Up C.P., who sounded much less outé than their predecessors when I heard them at the Titanic a couple of weeks ago. Neneh Cherry's vocalising is the featured attraction.

COUNTY MUSIC FESTIVAL
Apr. 21-23, Wembley Arena, Empire Way, Wembley, Middlesex (082 1234)
The sixteenth edition of this annual season-and-six-pm extravaganza features the demure Emmylou Harris, the righteous Glen Campbell (once a Beach Boy, remember), Lynn Anderson, B. J. Thomas, Freddie Fender, Slim Whitman and - the pick of the bunch, for my money - Ray Stevens, who will probably not sing his protest-pop classic, "Mr Businessman". Three-day passes cost from £28 to £50; for that, you also get the Camdons, a most exotic addition to the bill.

OPERA
Lane is a new production of Verdi's *The Sicilian Vespers*, about the thirteenth-century occupation of Sicily, written two years before *La Traviata*. John Dexter's production brings Rossini's *Pleasant* back to the Coliseum to sing the role of Elena, with Kenneth Collins as Arrigo and Mark Elder in the pit. ENO's splendid production of Prokofiev's *War and Peace* is tonight and on Wed at 6.30pm, with Rosenkavalier (Josephine Barstow as the Marschallin) on Tues. (836 3161)

KENT OPERA: The company finishes its run at Brighton tonight with Offenbach's *Robinson Crusoe* (0273 28488). It then ends its tour

Dance

SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET
Sadler's Wells (278 8916). Today at 2.30pm and 7.30pm
Last two performances of their London season: Jennifer Jackson's new *Common Ground*, to Lennox Berkeley's *Serenade* for Strings, precedes *Giselle*, in which guest principal Ana Botafogo takes the title part this afternoon and Sheryl Kennedy this evening.

ROYAL BALLET
Covent Garden (240 1066). Wed at 7.30pm
Only one performance this week: a prom of Ashton's *Rhapsody* and *Enigma Variations* with Nijinska's *Les Noces*.

DANNY GROSSMAN
Bloomsbury (387 9629). Today at 2.30pm and 7.30pm, Oxford Playhouse (0865 47133).
Mon, Tues, Wed at 7.30pm, Buxton Opera House (0298 71010).
Thurs, Fri and Sat at 7.30pm
On past showings, comedy and acrobatic daring can be expected from this small Toronto-based company, paying their third visit to Britain.

ROSS McKIM
The Place (387 0031). Wed at 8pm
A former principal of London Contemporary Dance Theatre, McKim presents his Chamber Dance Theatre in works by Robert Cohan, Grant Strate and himself. Linda Gibbs is among the other dancers.

NORTHERN BALLET
Manchester, Palace (061 238 9922). Today at 2.30pm and 7.30pm
Robert de Warren's new production of *The Sleeping Beauty* ends its Manchester run today before going on tour next month to Buxton, Bath, Swansea and Wolverhampton.

FILMS: David Robinson and Geoff Brown; Concerts: Max Harris; Opera: Hilary Finch; Rock & Jazz: Richard Williams; Dance: John Percival

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Poise: Vivienne Rochester in Ross McKim's team

FESTIVAL BALLET
Basildon, Towngate (0268 23953). Today at 8pm
André Prokoviev has revised his Gershwin ballet, now renamed *That Certain Feeling*, for Festival Ballet's small-scale touring programme, which also includes dances from *Les Sylphides*. Booking is open for the full company's season at the London Coliseum, opening May 22 with *Olegin*.

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Entertainments

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Bridge

Alarm bells
sound
over team
selection

After the first two of the three weekends of the British Bridge League (BBL) trials to select the team to represent Great Britain in the World Olympiad in Seattle, these were the leading scores:

1. R. Sheehan, I. N. Rose, 805;
2. K. Stanley, R. Smolksi, 775;
3. W. Coyle, B. Shenkin, 714;
4. A. Forrester, G. Calderwood, 698.5;
5. V. Silverstone, C. Dixon, 694.

Sheehan and Rose, the most experienced pair in the field, seemed to have an unassailable lead, and steady play would have probably sufficed to keep Stanley and Smolksi in the first two.

In the event Stanley and Smolksi improved their position, but Sheehan and Rose had a nightmare session. These were the final results:

1. K. Stanley, R. Smolksi, 1,154;
2. W. Coyle, B. Shenkin, 1,102;
3. V. Silverstone, C. Dixon, 1,101;
4. R. Sheehan, I. N. Rose, 1,056;
5. A. Duncan, B. Short, 1,034.5.

Under the conditions of the trial the selectors were committed to picking the first two pairs, but could exercise their judgment about the third pair. They chose Sheehan and Rose to complete the team.

There are a number of conclusions to be drawn from these trials. Even if one acknowledges the claims of Sheehan and Rose, it was obviously bad luck on Silverstone and Dixon, who lost second place by only one point and were overlooked.

But a comparison with last year's trials gives greater cause for concern. In the whole method in which the BBL conduct selection trials. In the 1983 Teams trials Shenkin, Coyle and Sheehan were members of a team which finished a distant third. Silverstone and Dixon were summarily dismissed after one totally inconclusive weekend. This year the pairs who dominated the 1983 trials finished fifth, eighth and last.

It is easy to dismiss these vagaries of form as insignificant. But surely the real point is the futility of short trials, in particular of short Pairs trials.

Both the World Olympiad and the European Championship are a test of stamina and a trial of character. To play with the same partner for between 400 and 500 boards imposes a mental strain and often requires great discipline. A partnership needs the confidence to overcome the inevitable bad boards without the heated post-mortems that invariably produce inter-panic.

Three pathetically short weekends do not test this aspect of partnership endurance any more than a five-furlong sprint tells a trainer whether his horse will stay the Derby distance of a mile and a half.

This hand is a good illustration of how a partnership can lose its edge when things are going against it. Sheehan and Dixon were playing against Duncanson and Short, who use the Precision Club. BBL Trials, North-South Game. Dealer West.

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13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24
25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

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Time voyage into a Viking saga

One of the star attractions of the

Jorvic Viking Centre, which

opens in York today, is a trip

into the past. You step into a

"time car" - similar to those that

travel tunnels of love or ghost

trains, and set off - backwards.

It is a nice conceit, well done,

intended to augment an im-

pression of travelling back in

time. You pass ghostly figures

and tableaux representing past

eras (starting in the twentieth

century and working back-

wards) and listen to sounds

evocative of those epochs, from

a paper boy's cry to the sound

of soldiers marching, the moans

of the plague, the crackle of the

fire that destroyed much of

Jorvic (York). The car stops

turns so that you are facing

forwards and you are looking at

a life-size tenth-century Viking

street.

The Jorvic centre is a highly

ambitious project, that has

taken five and a half years and

cost £2.6m to complete. York is

already a stunningly well-

dowered city historically, with

hundreds of thousands of

visitors flocking to its medieval

streets each summer; the centre

hopes to attract half a million of

these through its doors this year

and for many years to come.

Michael Montague, chairman of

the English Tourist Board, has

gone so far as to claim: "Jorvic

will do as much for Viking

archaeology as Pompeii has

done for Roman antiquities".

Given such high expectations, it

was intriguing to see for myself.

After the time trip described

above, we moved down the

Viking street feeling as though

we were on a personally

conducted tour of a magnificent

film set on which everyone had

worked unstintingly to get every

detail right. As a craft exercise,

this recreation of a Viking

village could not be faulted. The

shops and houses (almost life-

size) have been constructed

exactly as they would have

stood, with the possible excep-

tion of the roofs, since no trace

of these was found on the site,

although they are authentic for

the period. All the traders'

wares, leather goods, jewelry,

wood-turned buckets, orna-

ments, fruit and vegetables are

replicas of originals found here,

as are the clothing, fabrics,

woven and dyed to match

unearthed remains.

The activities in which the

"inhabitants" are engaged, from

wood-turning to weaving, house-

work to herring fishing, are

equally authentic, since evi-

dence of all these occupations

was found during the dig. To add

to the atmosphere, the entire

village smells - of woodsmoke

and stewpots, pigsties and

apples; an olfactory delight,

ding and all.

The sounds were extraordi-

narily pleasing - from the cries

of herring-gulls to murmured

conversations or snatches of

Old Norse.

After emerging from the

"time tunnel" we travelled on

through a reconstruction of the

original excavation and saw the

perfectly preserved remains of

three Viking houses, found

under the debris of the

centuries. In the artifact hall,



Rus in mbe: Street scene in York's "Pompeii"

childish chatter uttered in Old Norse. It was only the "people" that reminded me, willing to accept in this "fiction" based on fact, that I had not stepped through the looking glass although they too were finely and imaginatively

I could happily have toured the village several more times, but I was also slightly irritated by the commentary, which emanates from speakers in the car. Magnus Magnusson was as authoritative as ever, but despite a claim that the commentary "can be heard clearly over the surrounding sound effects" it cannot, or at least could not on my visit. It was also irritating to have two conflicting sources of information assaulting the ears. However, one of the organizers assured me that the situation would be improved.

After emerging from the "time tunnel" we travelled on through a reconstruction of the original excavation and saw the perfectly preserved remains of three Viking houses, found under the debris of the

centuries. In the artifact hall,

500 of the best of the Viking objects found in Coppergate are on display - ice-skates made from animal bones, keys, padlocks, leather shoes, combs, cooking utensils, weapons, tools - plus a hologram of an Anglo-Saxon helmet which was also found on the site.

I came away from Jorvic glad to have made the journey. The subterranean centre may not be quite as "staggering", "unbelievable" or any of the other epithets so freely applied to it by its promoters. But it is, as one of the most enthusiastic supporters, the Prince of Wales, described it: "the recreation of the Viking kingdom of Jorvic below the streets of a busy modern city - a remarkable and original concept". And a good family outing to boot, although I suggest you see it before or after the tourist season gets going in earnest.

Judy Froshaug

The Jorvic Viking Centre is in Coppergate, York (YO1 643211), and is open from today until Oct 31, daily 9am-7pm, and Nov 1-Mar 31, daily 9am-5.30pm. Last admissions one hour before closing. Adults £2, children £1.

Chess

Pupils on the way to becoming masters

We have reached the end of the first stage in what, next to the British Championships, is the most important event in the British chess calendar. The Times British Schools' Chess Tournament. Indeed it could be regarded as the most important event, since from its ranks have emerged nearly all the British grandmasters and masters.

From the 497 schools that have been competing 27 have emerged as victors from their zones, and qualified for the zonal stage. With such a widespread entry, zonal preliminary tournaments were essential in order to avoid excessive travelling costs, and it is pleasant to observe that all the famous chess-playing schools have come through.

Five schools that have become noted for their chess talent have been given byes to the second round of the zonal stage. Belconnen Royal Academy, a team; King Edward VI School, Southampton; Magdalen College School, Newcastle; Royal Grammar School, A team; and Queen Mary's Grammar School, Walsall, last year's winners.

It is good to see that such famous chess-playing schools as St Paul's and King Edward's School, Birmingham, have qualified. St Paul's failed to qualify last year but can be expected to gain a place in the semi-finals, if not the finals; both are due to be played in July at St Ermin's Hotel near Victoria, London. King Edward's, which has produced so many grandmasters and masters (such as C. H. O. Alexander and Tony Miles) should also do well.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Today

BADMINTON HORSE TRIALS: Today is the day-long endurance test, from 11am to 5.30pm. Tomorrow morning is devoted to the final horse examination and the jumping test. In the afternoon the Queen watches the parade of competitors and more jumping before presenting the Whitbread Trophy to the winner. Badminton, Avon (045421 272).

TOP GYMNASIS: The fifteenth annual Champions All International Gymnastics Competition, sponsored by the Daily Mirror, provides an opportunity to see a line-up of Olympic contenders. The favourite is Boreana Stoyanova from Bulgaria, holder of the world title for the vault, but she faces strong competition from Elena Brazhnikova from the Soviet Union and Feng Wen of China. The British gymnasts to watch are Hayley Price and Andrew Morris. Wembley Arena, Wembley, Middlesex (902 1234) at 2pm. Tickets £3.50-£5.

WEMBLEY BECKONS: In the FA Cup semi-finals Watford, the favourites, play Plymouth Argyle at Villa Park while Southampton take on Everton at Highbury to decide who will meet in the final at Wembley on May 19. Highlights on BBC1 tonight, 9.55-10.45pm and on ITV tomorrow, 1.15-2pm.

COURTLY PLEASURES: The contents of Yates Court, near Maidstone, a handsome Commonwealth house, are on view today, in preparation for a sale on Mon. Good Georgian furniture is the strong suit but carpets, curtains, lawn mowers and even flower pots are also included. Catalogue from Christie's, South Kensington, London SW7 (581 2231) or Yates Court (0622-612245). Sale on Mon at noon.

Tomorrow

PASSION PLAY FOR ST KATHARINE'S: Organized by All Hallows-by-the-Tower, the local parish church, this staging of the life of Christ and his journey to the cross involves members of the local community in an open-air production which is in modern English and modern dress. St Katharine's Dock, London E1, by Tower Bridge, at 7.15pm.

Monday

IYO MOSLEY CERAMICS: Tables, vases, dishes, lights, bowls and boxes are among more than 400 one-off pieces made by Ivo Mosley over the past four years, during which time he has developed a way of achieving strong colours for use at porcelain temperatures. All exhibits are for sale, starting at £10. Five Dials Gallery, 33 Shelton Street, London WC2 (836 9701). Until April 21, daily, 10am-7pm. Free.

ORIENTAL MINIATURES: Sotheby's begins its week of Islamic art sales with one of fine Oriental manuscripts and miniatures. There are two exceptional seventeenth-century Mughal miniatures from a royal album and the earliest extant manuscript treatise on falconry, dated 1223 and attributed to the court falconer of the Abbasid Caliph al-Mahdi. Sotheby's, 24-25 New Bond Street, London W1 (493-8080) at 11am and 2.30pm.

FIFTIES ART: The 1950s have at last arrived as a collecting period with the first specialist sale of "Post-War Design" at Christie's. The catalogue is brimming with the work of Italian designers, with brightly coloured glass, metal and plastic furniture and even an adding machine, an electric fan and an espresso coffee pot. Christie's, 8 King Street, London SW1 at 6.30pm.

SEVEN DAYS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD: Tom Fleming presents the first of seven films for Holy Week. This one recalls the young Galilean prophet who came to the spring festival at Jerusalem with some 300,000 other pilgrims. The series



Pigeheaded: Wendy Morgan as Minimus and Barrie Rutter (Napoleon) in Peter Hall's adaptation of George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, the novel of a "revolution that went wrong" (see Tuesday)

is on BBC1, Mon-Thurs, 12.20pm with late night repeats; Fri, 10.55pm, repeated at 10.50pm.

THE MASTER OF BALLANTRAE: Robert Louis Stevenson's adventure novel, set in the eighteenth century, receives a three-part television dramatization with a star-studded cast. John Gielgud, Michael York, Richard Thomas and Timothy Dalton. ITV, part 1 tonight 9.10pm; parts 2 and 3 tomorrow, 9.10 and 10.30-11.30pm.

DOWN AND OUT IN PARIS AND LONDON: The George Orwell Estate has now given permission for the Gate Theatre Company to present both halves of this work (Part 1 was seen in 1979) as its fifth anniversary production. Lou Stein directs his own adaptation. Cast headed by Anthony Higginson, from the 1979 production. Gate Theatre Club at the Latchmere, 503 Mon-Sat at 7.30pm (7pm on Apr 24).

THE NAPOLEON OF NOTTING HILL: Musical adaptation of G. K. Chesterton's prophetic novel, first published in 1904 and set in 1884. The plot has the people of Notting Hill establishing an independent state. Rodney Archer and Powell Jones have changed the sex of the hero, and added songs by Chuck Mallett and David Head. Valerie Colgan directs this Old Vic Youth Theatre production, using amateur performers from all over London. Scheduled for presentation at the Old Vic in September. Joanetta Cochrane Theatre, Theobalds Road, London WC1 (242 7040). Opens today at 7.30pm; matinee Apr 21, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinee Apr 21 at 2.30pm.

Tuesday

INDIAN PAINTINGS: The vivid, pure hues of India are distilled in the pictures produced at the courts of Rajasthan, the Pahari Hills and the Deccan. Among the 40 paintings on show (all for sale, from £300) are seventeenth-century examples from Mewar and Malwa, romantic scenes from Kangra, and a

nineteenth-century courtly scene from Jodhpur. Tooth Paintings, 33 Cork Street, London W1 (734 7772). Until May 11, Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5.30pm.

CHURCHMAN'S LAMENT: The Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev David Sheppard, delivers the 1984 Dimeby Lecture. Under the title "The Other Britain", he describes the poverty and unemployment of inner-city areas and laments the alienation between governors and governed. BBC1, 9.25-10.15pm.

CHRONICLE 200: The 200th edition of Chronicle, the BBC's programme on archaeology, provides the occasion for a dig into the corporation's own archives. Highlights from the last 18 years include the discovery of Roman coins in the sacred spring at Bath, the Sutton Hoo burial treasure from Suffolk and the raising of the Mary Rose. BBC2, 6-9pm.

THE COLLECTOR: Paul Raymond's Boulevard Theatre presents the Off Broadway Theatre Company's production of David Parker's adaptation of the story by John Fowles about a young man who kidnaps a girl with whom he is

obsessed. Janet Fielding, Jonathan Oliver, Jamie Jeffries, directed by Brian McDermott. Boulevard Theatre, Raymond Revue Bar, Walkers Court, London W1 (437 2861). Opens today at 7.30pm, following previews, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm.

ANIMAL FARM: Peter Hall directs his own adaptation of George Orwell's novel of "a revolution that went wrong". Greg Hicks as Snowball, Barrie Rutter as Napoleon, David Ryall as Squealer. Music by Richard Peaslee, lyrics by Adrian Mitchell. Cottesloe (928 2252). Previews today, Wed and Thurs at 7.30pm; Apr 21, 23 and 24 at 7.30pm. Opens Apr 25 at 7pm. In repertory.

NUMBER ONE: Michael Frayn's English adaptation of a new comedy by Jean Anouilh, with Leo McKern as a playwright whose family and friends are after his money. Jo Mella, Margaret Whiting, Peter Slythe, directed by Robert Cretney. Queens Theatre (734 1166). Previews today, Wed and Thurs at 8pm, Apr 21 at 5pm and 8.15pm, Apr 23 at 8pm (no part Apr 20). Opens Apr 24 at 7pm, then Mon-Fri at 8pm, Sat at 5pm and 8.15pm; matinees Wed at 5pm.

GOOD MORNING BILL: Peter Clapham directs his adaptation of P. G. Wodehouse's comedy, a major revival which moves to the West End after its premiere run. Richard Hather, Mary Tamm, Christopher Good, Wendy Albutt, Ivan Seelys. Ashcroft Theatre, Croydon (688 9291). Opens today at 7.45pm, until Apr 28, Mon-Fri at 7.45pm, Sat at 6pm and 8.15pm; matinee Apr 23 at 2.30pm, no part on Good Friday.

MYGALION: Peter O'Toole, Joyce Carey, Jack Welling, John Thaw, Barbara Murray and Jackie Smith-Wood as Eliza, directed by Ray Cooney. In the pre-London run of this new revival of George Bernard Shaw's comedy which was the basis for *My Fair Lady*. Leicester Haymarket (053 539797). Previews today at 7.30pm, opens Thurs at 7.30pm, until May 5, Mon-Thurs at 7.30pm, Fri and Sat at 8pm.

THE FIRST NUCLEAR MARTYR: Coinciding with the release of Mike Nichols' film, the Panorama team up-

dates its 1979 investigation into the woman who died in a car accident near Oklahoma City. She had worked in a laboratory at a nuclear plant and shortly before the accident had become seriously contaminated with plutonium, a highly toxic material. BBC2, 7.40-8.30pm.

THURSDAY

SUSSEX PICTURED: Paintings by Sussex artists or of Sussex scenes go on sale, including views of Osham, Shoreham, Arundel Castle and Winchester. Sotheby's, Putborough, West Sussex (07982 3831) at 10.30am.

CAPITAL PAINTING: Thirty-six City companies contribute to an exhibition of 125 paintings, ranging from the most traditional to the most modern (some of the companies are advised on their purchases by the Contemporary Art Society). The show is offered as a counterpart (or counterblast) to *The City's Pictures* is free exhibition downstairs, The Barbican Art Gallery, Barbican London EC2 (638 4141). Until June 10, Tues-Sat, 10am-7pm; Sun and public holidays, noon-6pm; open Easter Mon. Adults £1, concessionary tickets 50p.

TRANSPORTS OF DELIGHT: The finest fleet of vintage Nortons in the world will be sold among a collection of motor-cycles going back to 1903. The collection was amassed over 50 years by Bill Frain, an Oxfordshire motor-cycle enthusiast who died last year aged 81. Star is a £5,000 Singer "bachelor" combination of 1910. Phillips, 10 Salem Road, London W2 (929 6802) at 11am.

MAUNDY MONEY: The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh attend the Maundy Service, held this year at Southwell Minster. Afterwards, the Queen distributes the Maundy Gifts, specially minted coins, to those who have served the church and community. Coverage on Radio 4, 10.40-11.45am.

AND THE SHIP SAILS ON: Federico Fellini's new film opens. See page 17.

Friday

DEVIZES TO WESTMINSTER BY CANOE: The annual race starts from Cough Lane Bridge, Devizes, with smaller crews leaving between 9 and 10am, and larger ones timing their departure to gain the full benefit of the tide at Teddington. The first 54 miles are down the Kennet and then canal to Reading, followed by 71 miles on the Thames to London. About 100 crews are expected to cross the finishing line, opposite County Hall, just downstream of Westminster Bridge, early on Mon morning.

ST MATTHEW PASSION: This production of J. S. Bach's magnificent choral work, set in Lincoln Cathedral and illustrated with Old Master paintings, won a British Academy of Film and Television Arts award for Best Sound in 1979. Raymond Leppard conducts the BBC Northern Symphony Orchestra, the BBC Singers and the BBC Northern Singers in an English translation. Alan Titus sings the part of Christus with John Garrison, Sheila Armstrong, Ann Murray, John Elwes and James Morris. BBC2, 2.55-5.05pm.

BASICALLY BACH: Christopher Hogwood's festival includes concerts, free of music and film. Today the English Baroque Choir and Orchestra perform *St Matthew Passion*, sung in German, 5-9.30pm (tickets £2-£5.50). Tomorrow the British Horn Festival free concert at 11am includes Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No 1. The Academy of Ancient Music perform the *Mass in B minor* on Apr 22 at 5pm (tickets £2-£7.50) and an all-Bach programme on Apr 23 at 3pm (tickets £2-£5). The *Diary of Anna Magdalena Bach*, starring Gustav Leonardus as J. S. Bach, is screened on Apr 22 in Cinema 2 at 2.15pm. Barbican Centre, London EC2 (638 8891/628 6795).

Country Diary



No fish, please... we're Frinton

Graciousness, according to the brochure, is the quality which gives Frinton-on-Sea a unique place among the English holiday resorts. It is the town repaired on several occasions during the Simpson divorce case of Ipswich. Exuding seaside gentility at its most forbidding, it has the advantage of a golf course at the western end of the esplanade as a *cordon sanitaire* between the front and the real world beyond.

Forewarned, no doubt, of the impending threat to its quintessential superiority from the brash development of Clacton, just a few putts away along the Essex coast, Frinton drew the line on unwanted intrusion in the 1880s when the railway arrived. All public transport since then has been forced to terminate at the level-crossing at the far end of the town.

The explorer who is under-terred by this barrier to his progress will discover unusual rewards as he enters this Victorian paradise. Tree-lined residential avenues sweep elegantly down to the esplanade past a broad 50-acre strip of grass called the Greensward. Not only are wheel and candyfloss stalls, kiss-me-quick hats and funfairs absent. There are no picnickers, as they are not permitted either. It is indeed a pleasant, uncluttered green where even the dogs look over their shoulders before breaking the by-laws.

One edifice alone on the Greensward breaks its fearful symmetry - a brick-built gentry-flexion to the needs of man, the doors of which are well screened by shubbery.

The penny one spends there is likely to be one's only outgoing along the front. For there is nothing else to be had - no pier to stroll along, even a tea-stall, it might all drive a man to drink, were it not for the absence of a public house, for these are not allowed either.

Frinton, the resort where the elderly genteel enjoy their fading years, attracts insensitive graffiti beyond its boundaries, such as the celebrated addendum to the advertisement for the nearby port of Harwich - "Harwich for the Continent, Frinton for the Incontinent".

Much of this may help to explain the thinking behind Frinton's latest prohibition. Fish. Henceforth fish are not to be allowed on Frinton's esplanade. More accurately, as Frintonians have come to realize that they and fish do not go together except at the table, the latter may not be sold on the esplanade. The social intercourse between Frintonians and their under-privileged marine cousins, except when poached, fried or grilled, will in future end at the water's edge.

The suggestion of a disharmony between Frintonians upon the subject of fish may be found in the minutes of the local parish council. There it is recorded that a Frinton fisherman has been known to sell his catch upon the seafront over an alleged period of several months to as many as 300 regular customers.

The unfortunate catcher of fish recently attempted to place himself within the law by applying to the superior Tending District Council, which embraces Frinton, for a licence to sell his wares.

Council officers from Tending sought the views of Frinton and were left in no doubt as to the gravity of the matter. The



Quick licks: A crafty lolly

council therefore decided that, threatened as Frinton's reputation was, the hapless fisherman should be denied his living. Moreover the council refused permission for storage huts to be built for fishermen on the seafront.

Tending council has the democratic advantage of several Labour members, none of whom, of course, represents Frinton, originating instead from such socialist outposts as Harwich and Clacton. Several of these were heard to protest about the snobbery of Frinton, the discrimination against honest men, the affront to the local unemployed and indeed, the deprivation Frinton fishermen would suffer.

But the views of the Conservative representative from Frinton, Mrs Elizabeth Ret, prevailed. She told me: "The feeling in Frinton is that it would be undesirable to sell fish on the promenade, and I supported the democratic wish of the people. It is nonsense to speak of snobbery. Frinton tends to be misunderstood and maligned. Frinton welcomes visitors and is a very friendly place."

Your correspondent would convey the views of the unhappy fisherman if it were not for the fact that, like many a good Frintonian, the man has an ex-directory telephone number and declines to answer the door to callers.

Michael Horsnell

Out and About/Angling

Incidentally, don't forget the grease or the chairleg

I bought my first fishing kit at the kind of tackle shop Arthur Ransome might well have had in mind when he wrote his eulogy of the traditional shop in the essays which now make up the justly celebrated *Rod and Line* collection.

An angler, according to Ransome, had three sources of pleasure: rivers, lakes and tackle shops. The shop was a kind of wayside shrine where vows might be renewed and fish deepened. One passed a pleasant hour or more, gossiping and mooching around the racks of rods. The owner, himself an angler, was a man of infinite wisdom.

It was just such a man who set me on the road to the Thames Water reservoirs one spring several years ago. Why he should have set up shop in a west London high street was never clear but that seems to be the way of tackle shops. (Like telephones, policemen and taxis, they are never where you need them.)

Ransome would have been at home in my initiator's emporium - the word "shop" seems of character for a place graced with old-fashioned glass cases, stuffed fish and enamelled advertisements for long-extinct tackle firms. After cross-examination to discover how far the addiction had taken hold of me, I was allowed to leave with an inexpensive rod, a simple reel, a medium-priced line and a selection of flies. No one seemed to think I would find much use for a net. They were right.

This is the time of year when I begin to haunt such shops again. I may have sneaked in occasionally during the winter - just to look at a reel fitting or consider the possibility of a new line, you understand. No great expenditure, nothing substantial. April, however, is when anglers embark on the serious

business of checking the contents of the fishing bag and what the auctioneer has pleased to call "angler's boxes".

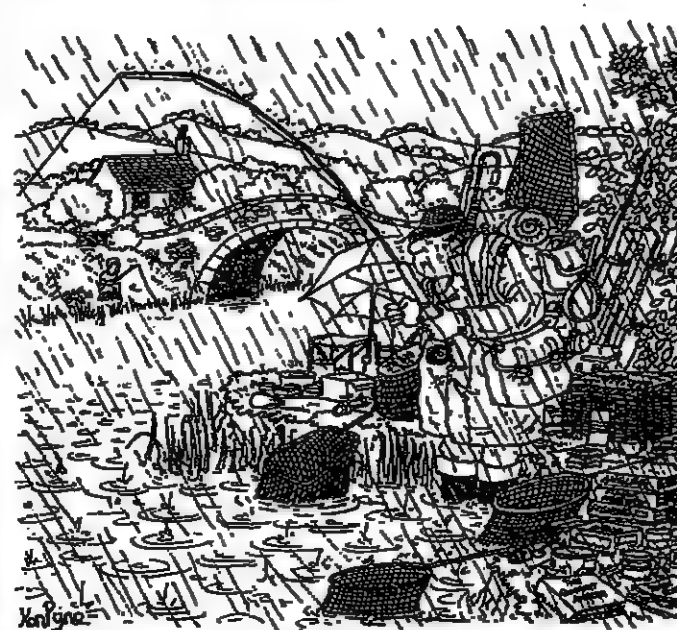
A few weeks ago I saw a selection of equipment - old cigarette tins and the like - over the shoulder of a testy farmer at a country sale. He ferreted through it before pronouncing snuffily that it was "a load of old rubbish". Not an angler, I think. You will not get far without a box of such items, ancient though they may be. Grease, sinking compound... the angler's box often holds those little extras that most fly fishermen eventually discover they need.

The books have told you about the great rod debate - carbon versus glass fibre versus split cane; they have discussed the merits of the shooting head and the virtues of the double taper, and given precise advice on how to cast. And at the end they have included a chapter on incidentals.

Incidentals. Well, see how far you get without the nailclippers and the chairleg, to mention but two... Anyone who has ever tried to chew through the nylon used to make up the leader, the fine line between the main casting line and the fly, or to cut quickly and precisely with a knife, will know the value of the nailclipper, toenail size for preference.

As for the chairleg, that is there to administer the final thump on the fish's head, thus killing it quickly and relatively painlessly. Ideally, it should have some metal to give it added weight. The technical name for such a club is a "priest".

I once bought a dainty little metal club which had been specially made for the task; my honest shopkeeper told me to use a chairleg but in those days I thought I knew best. It proved totally ineffective. Now I use a



Mad about motorbikes: Bill Frain and his wife Winifred (Thur)

solid chairleg of the type sold by do-it-yourself shops for screwing into plates under chairs and tables.

Such items are not common in tackle dealers, but floatant, grease and sinking compound are. Never venture out without them. Floatant is used to keep dry flies sitting on the surface and prevent them getting waterlogged. I use both spray cans and the little jars into which flies can be dropped for total immersion. The spray is good for swift action on large flies such as mayflies while the little bottles are better for very small fly patterns.

There is little to choose between the greases for keeping a leader afloat which are on the market but there are marked differences between the various sinking compounds which are used to take a leader and fly down. The green oil tends to

vanish quickly while the wads of dry clay now sold in sachets break up into bits. I prefer the thick, grey paste sold under a number of brand names.

For years I was one of those anglers who looked askance at fishermen who came to the water decked out with surgeon's forceps and snarrows spoons or lanyards. Wisdom dawns eventually. Forceps are ideal for removing hooks, from fish or friend, without too much damage. Marrow spoons, which are very long and thin, are excellent for checking what fish are feeding on once one has been caught. They are slipped down the gullet to the stomach and bring out part of the contents.

The fish you catch can of course be hauled unceremoniously to the bank. But this can make killing it more difficult and will do a fish you return considerable damage. A net is better, but many reservoir

anglers invest themselves with huge ones, worthy of salmon rather than the average 2lb rainbow trout. Unless you expect to meet a passing sturgeon or a 50lb carp try a light, telescopic net.

So there you are on the bank, incidentals at work or waiting to be used, and a drop of rain falls. Then another. The fish are rising and it is raining. For some reason it only rains very heavily on water you are fishing. It is one of those laws of fishing like the one about the baitfish who only arrives when you have reached your limit and have decided to sneak... The only way to cope with the law of heavy rainfall is to buy a good waterproof. If you get a nylon coat or one made of any of the man-made fabrics, make sure the seams are sealed and avoid those with seams across the shoulders. I bought my own from a yachting shop after several narrow escapes from pneumonia. They understand these little problems in the English Channel but not apparently on the Test.

However, the colours could be too strong to let you blend rustically into the banks, as the experts recommend. There are, of course, those highly fashionable waxed cotton country coats but they may be a little too expensive for an incidental. Try your tackle shop. It might have something cheaper.

Stewart Tendler

The potions for flies and leaders between 50p and £1 for a jar or bottle but the dry-fly spray is now well over £1. Forceps are at least £3 but the marrow spoon should not cost more than £1.50. Nets vary in cost but the average telescopic model is about £12 for an imported type. Nylon boats are up to £30 for the strong, thick version sold by sailing shops. The waxed cotton coats come in various styles starting at least £40 and rising to more than £80.

THE TIMES GUERNSEY GILET

This pure wool 'gilet' or button-through waist-coat is warm and practical as well as being smart and stylish to wear. It is made in Guernsey from 100% pure new wool and has many of the features that make Guernsey so popular.

The gilet is made up with a tight close knit for added warmth and wind resistance and the strong high-quality wool ensures that it is tough and hard-wearing. The styling is classic, with a ribbed crew-neck, armholes and hem, with the same neat ribbing knitted across the two patch pockets. The gilet buttons through from neck to hem, and is also characterised as a Guernsey garment by the small slit openings at either side of the deep hem.

Suitable for both men and women, the gilet will team well with chunky shirts and warmer skirts and trousers during the winter and early spring, and also be ideal as a stylish body warmer when the weather improves. This Guernsey gilet is a smart high-quality garment that has been specially selected for Times readers and is available in a choice of navy blue or grey with black buttons or oatmeal with wooden buttons. It may be dry cleaned or hand washed with care.

Sizes: Small (36in), Medium (38in), Large (40in), Extra Large (42in).

THE TIMES

The Times Guernsey Gilet Offer, Bourne Road, Exley, East, D45 1BL. Tel: Crayford (0322) 53316 for enquiries only.



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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Scargill an unlikely victim of nanny state

Any member of a pension fund, let alone a fund investment manager, will sympathize with members of the National Coal Board pension fund's management committee. They were obliged to cope with the presence of Messrs Arthur Scargill and Mick McGahey as intransigent union trustees, vetoing investments abroad or in competing forms of energy over a period when most sensible investors trying to balance their portfolios would have thought it foolhardy to stick to a British only policy or eschew the heavyweight oil sector.

But it would be as unwise to confuse the blocking antics of Mr Scargill with the proper role of employing trustees as to confuse the abolition of the Greater London Council with the effects of Mr Ken Livingstone.

Yesterday, in the High Court, Sir Robert Megarry ruled that the mine-workers' trustees would have to lift their embargo or risk being removed from the management committee as unfit. The judge agreed with the National Coal Board trustees that the restriction of investment was imprudent and therefore a breach of the duty under the trustee laws to do the best they could for the beneficiaries.

More significantly, he ruled that trustees had to put aside their personal interests and social/political views and act as "the ordinary prudent man". Since the investments of one pension fund would not make much impact on the economy and therefore could not alter the returns from British investment by boycotting the outside world, any benefits to the fund members were "far too speculative and remote" to count.

That, no doubt, is the law. Now that it has been tested, two implications shine out from the judgment.

Anyone investing his own money is free to adopt any investment policy he may choose, whether skewed by ethical, political or personally eccentric predilections. No Muslim can be obliged to invest in moneylenders, no pacifist in arms manufacturers, no Conservative in left-leaning newspapers. The individual has every right to prefer an investment in his local firm or a company employing his relatives to the judgment of the best brains of the City of London. Indeed, the Business Expansion Scheme encourages eccentric risks in new enterprises.

But once investment funds are pooled and institutionalized, then trustees, whether union representatives of trusted individuals, are unable to exercise such preferences, even if a majority of the beneficiaries concur, unless they are enshrined in a trust deed. In this sense, those becoming trustees are neutered. They are "temperamentally unsuited" according to the judge, unless they accept the plain man's view, which in this case is probably synonymous with going along with professional financial advice.

That is at once a warning to many other trustees and a powerful case for individual investment and individual control over pension arrangements against the paternalist institution.

The second, highly questionable implication, is that only the law and not the individual in a position of trust, can go against short-term market dictats.

In the mine-workers' case, the judge accepted that there was a strong case for legislation to restrict the flow of large investment funds abroad and to put the money to work in Britain. But trustees could not act on that except to campaign for a change in the law, or, presumably, the rules of the pension fund itself.

Leaving aside the case for restricting overseas investment, which is highly dubious, the judge is surely pointing to a nanny state in which investment managers pretend they are The Economic Man, chained to short-term financial gains, while any deeper judgement must be left to Government or its agents, such as the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Like other parts of the nanny state, that is comforting but dangerous.

It is surely against the spirit of the times. We want fewer Government rules and bureaucratic tribunals, fewer quangos. We do not want a Securities and Exchange Commission. But the concomitant is that responsible individuals must do their own thinking, make their own judgments - in public - and stand up to the consequences. It is time this choice was faced.

Why Fed raised the discount rate

So was the Fed right to raise Cain and the discount rate, in the light of this week's US money supply figures? On the face of it, the decision looks to have been far too hasty. Latest money supply figures (for the week to April 2) reveal a drop in M1 of about \$5 billion, or roughly double market expectations. The fall brings the rate of expansion tumbling down to the bottom end of the Fed's allowable expansion rate. Well within the permissible range of \$531.4 billion to \$539.4 billion, the actual outturn is just \$533.2 billion. In addition, both the broader supplementary M2 and M3 are growing at highly acceptable annualized rates.

But the answer to the interest rate conundrum is that the Fed is watching the whole economy on rates, and the broader picture is a lot less reassuring than the aggregates suggest. Loan demand, for example, is still buoyant, according to figures issued by 10 leading New York banks, which show loans, leases and investments up by \$2.6 billion.

Output may be slowing, but not as quickly as expected: industrial output still jumped by 0.4 per cent in March, compared with hopes of a fall after strong gains of 1.4 per cent and 1 per cent in January and February respectively. Meanwhile, prices are rising. March producer prices increased by 0.5 per cent in March, faster than the market forecast to give an annualized growth rate for the first quarter of 6 per cent.

The divergent movement of markets, as they digested the date, mirrored the equivocal nature of the statistics. But buoyant equities and slumping bonds suggest that American investors are veering, for the time being at least, towards more inflationary expectations.

Regulation time for accountants

For many years accountants and their fellow professionals have carried out their business unhindered by public interference, protected by the technical mysteries of their trade and regulated by their own Statute Chambers of internal discipline. The Secretary for Trade and Industry, Mr Norman Tebbit, is known to be training his guns on their restrictive practices and last night Mr Enoch Powell gave accountants in Wolverhampton the benefit of his powerful eloquence, in a sustained attack on the professions' curious lack of public accountability.

Sir Gordon Borrie, director general of the Office of Fair Trading, has been seeking to induce the accountancy profession to come out into the open since 1974 and in Mr Tebbit he has at last found the man to help him do it. Mr Tebbit will not stop at accountants. His interest is more wide-ranging. Already a successful attack on the solicitors' monopoly on conveyancing has been mounted.

The professions' protest that outsiders would not understand the complexities of their work was briskly disposed of by Mr Powell last night. And within the accountancy profession there are now too many internal wranglings for accountants to continue the argument that they can exist as a self-regulatory body.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Home loans rush begins

Building Societies are ready for an expected stronger-than-usual spring demand for home loans. Net monthly inflow of funds during March totalled £729m - down on February's £754m, but sufficient to meet present lending levels.

Lending is running at record levels with £1.835m being advanced in March and a further £2.333m promised to mortgage applicants in April.

Schroders, the merchant banking, investment and life insurance group, has celebrated

a record £20.9m disclosed profit by awarding the chairman, the Earl of Airlie, a £42,000 pay rise taking his earnings to £166,000.

BL has seized a third of the new car market in the first 10 days of April. The Austin/MG Metro remained Britain's best selling car and the Maestro was in second place after holding sixth place in March.

A Los Angeles judge has blocked a merger of the record businesses of Warner Communications and Polygram Records.

The companies' original board is no longer in Britain, although creditors are saying that even with the steering committee in place they are faced with no choice but to use those directors for new business.

Meanwhile, the Department of Trade and Industry is about to start investigations as to why Esal Commodities has not filed accounts with Companies

Security for some of the

Official figures show better outlook for jobs and prices

By Sarah Hogg and Frances Williams

A brighter outlook for both prices and jobs is promised by new official figures compiled by the Department of Employment. Announcing an inflation rate of 3.2 per cent for the year to March, Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, said yesterday that it proved "we are right on course and indeed ahead of schedule in reaching our prediction of 4.5 per cent by the end of this year". And figures to be published by Mr King next week will show that employment rose at an increasing pace during the last months of 1983.

The March inflation figure was slightly higher than the 3.1 per cent rate announced for February. But the increase was smaller than expected, suggesting that the inflation rate will fall below 3 per cent this month, for the first time since last November. On present trends, it is then likely to remain below

5 per cent for the rest of the year. This means that the critical May figure, on which next November's social security benefits-uprating will be based, will be well below the 5.5 per cent originally forecast by the Treasury last autumn.

Half the modest 0.3 per cent increase in prices last month, which left the Retail Price Index at 345.1 (January 1974 = 100), was caused by higher costs of tea and fresh food, which have been affected by the cold weather. Fresh food is 27 per cent more expensive than in March 1983, but is expected to get cheaper as the weather improves. The slight rise in the inflation figure between February and March reflects even "softer" price rises in March 1983.

The April inflation figure will be affected by price increases imposed by the Budget on drink and tobacco, partly offset by the



Tom King: "We are ahead of schedule"

1 per cent fall in the mortgage rate. Council rents and rates also go up this month, but by about the same amount as they did last year.

Overall, the Budget is expected to have given less of a boost to prices this year than last, when the Retail Price

Index jumped 1.4 per cent. So the inflation figure will drop. But Mr King gave a warning yesterday that inflation is still higher in Britain than in Germany, Japan, or the United States. "Only by sustaining our low inflation and continuing to improve our productivity can we press forward with the economic expansion that is so vital if we are to create more jobs," he said.

Next week's jobs figures will show a bigger rise in employment in October-December, 1983, than the 25,000 increase estimated for July-December. This continues the improving trend which began in the summer, when the number of jobs in the economy at last began to rise.

The total employed labour force, which includes the self-employed and the armed forces, has also risen faster in the fourth quarter than in the preceding one, when it was up by 53,000.

US-Japan wrangle hits IDA cash hopes

From Peter Wilson-Smith, Washington

Negotiations over increased funds for the United Bank and its soft loan arm, the International Development Association, were doomed to break up without agreement yesterday. Officials said that the unrelated disputes between the United States and Japan over liberalization of Japanese financial markets was the key obstacle, and there was little chance of a breakthrough before the meeting of the joint IMF-World Bank development committee broke up late yesterday in Washington.

Although there is agreement in principle on the \$9 billion (\$6.25 billion) seventh replenishment of IDA, the Japanese are unwilling to go ahead with this unless there is also agreement on the \$8.4 billion selective capital increase for the World Bank, which makes Japan the second largest shareholder. However, the US is said to be holding back on this until Japan agrees to open up its capital markets.

There are hopes that talks next week between Japan and the US can break the present impasse. Many officials are deeply concerned at the way the US has used the issue of funding for the World Bank as a lever in unconnected negotiations with the Japanese.

Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, stressed Britain's commitment to boosting the role of the World Bank at the development committee, yesterday, and said Britain would be ready to contribute towards an extra \$2 billion supplementary fund for IDA.

The IDA replenishment is due to come into force by July 1, and because of the need for countries to gain parliamentary approval, the timetable is becoming increasingly tight. If the deadline is not met, IDA will have to virtually cease lending.

THF calls censure 'misleading'

By William Kay, City Editor

Trusthouse Forte, the hotels and catering group led by Lord Forte, has finally risen to persistent criticism of its voting structure by the Stock Exchange.

On Wednesday, the Stock Exchange issued a notice that five companies had not complied with repeated requests to show which classes of their shares have restricted voting rights.

One was Trusthouse Forte. Its £195m share capital includes 390,000 Trust Shares which entitle the trustees to the same number of votes as all the holders of the other shares.

In a rare rebuff by a leading quoted company, Trusthouse Forte yesterday described it as "misleading" to be included in the list of companies with restrictive voting rights because the purpose of the trust is to ensure that the company's objects are maintained.

House since the financial period ending March 31, 1981. It will also look into why Esal Holdings, which owns 90 per cent of Esal Commodities was incorporated on June 25, 1980 but has filed nothing since. Companies House records show shareholders of Esal Holdings as Mr. Kalm Ahmed Nassim (a director of the commodities company) and Cove Holdings Ltd, which gives its address as Monrovia, Liberia.

The Librarian laws on what and when company's need to report as a matter of public record is much more relaxed than in Britain.

Milletts expected to bid for Campari

By Jonathan Clare

Milletts Leisure Shops, the camping and sports clothing chain, has been strongly tipped as a bidder for Campari International, the troubled leisure goods importer and distributor.

This comes after the apparent collapse of the tentative plans of Blacks Camping and Leisure and Greenfields Leisure to merge their distribution interests with Campari.

Milletts has been carrying out extensive market research to help it maintain a high profile in the downmarket leisure sector.

Mr Henry Lipton, the chairman of Campari, said that he had not negotiated with Milletts or any other possible bidder.

The share price was up 3p to 133p yesterday.

Rollup fund reborn

By Our City Staff

One of the most popular of the now-banned "rollup" funds has re-emerged in a new guise. It is N. M. Rothschild's Old Court Currency Funds, which is an updated version of the Old Court International Reserves.

Both are international money market funds. The difference is that Old Court International Reserves rolls up income and

capital gains together.

The newcomer, which has an initial market capitalization of £500m, separates the two types of gain so that they can be taxed separately. Shareholders will be allowed to switch among 14 currencies.

Full details of the Old Court Currency Fund will appear in *The Times* on Monday.

Net loss of £118m for Rolls-Royce

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

Rolls-Royce Limited, the State-owned aeroengine manufacturer, gave a warning yesterday of further job cuts among its 38,000-strong workforce after reporting that losses last year wiped another £190m off its dwindling balance sheet.

Its sales fell by 16 per cent last year, largely as a result of the continuing slump in the civil aviation business. Operating profit was down from £122m to £74m, which after interest, tax and R & D costs produced a loss of £118m - £23m up on 1982.

The drain on reserves was boosted by an increase in redundancy and other restructuring costs, from £38m to £74m. Rolls-Royce shed 5,900 jobs in Britain last year and further cuts are inevitable this year. It is hoping, however, that all the jobs will go by voluntary redundancy, as they were last year.

The accumulated deficit on Rolls-Royce's profit and loss account has now grown to £200m, while its balance sheet worth has shrunk from £500m to £307m. The Government has made it clear, however, that apart from launch aid, there will be no further cash injection.

£250m tap surprise

The Government played safety-first yesterday by announcing £250m of low-coupon "taplets", instead of the convertible stock which many in the market had been expecting.

The sum is split into two tranches, an extra £150m of three per cent Treasury stock 1987 and another £100m of three per cent Treasury stock 1986. The Bank of England is to take them on its own books for trading from Monday.

Unexpectedly high demand for National Westminster Bank's undated floating rate Eurobond note has led to an increase in the issue. National Westminster is to raise the amount from £300m (£209m) to £500m. The initial tranche rises from £200m to £300m.

The note carries interest of 3 per cent over the six-month London interbank offered rate.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1129.1 up 12.1
High: 1132.0; Low: 1127.8
FT Index: 695.2 up 8.6
FT Gilt: 82.43 down 0.23
FT All Share: 632.00 up 5.46
Bargains: 24,685
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 114.35 up 0.4
New York Dow Jones Industrial Average (latest): 1165.20 up 8.06
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 11,015.21 up 48.08
Hong Kong Hang Seng Index: 1075.70 down 15.71

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.4300 down 10pts
Index 79.9 down 0.2
DM 3.7525 unchanged
FrF 11.54 up 0.0050
Yen 321 unchanged
Dollar Index 127.3 up 0.7
DM 2.6225 up 0.0045
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4300
Dolar DM 2.6247
INTERNATIONAL
ECU 20.5885
SDR 10.740349

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 8 1/2 %
Finance houses base rate 9 1/2 %
Discount market loans week fixed 6 1/2 %
3 month interbank 8 1/2 % - 8 3/4 %
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10 1/4 % - 10 1/2 %
3 month DM 5 1/4 % - 5 1/2 %
3 month Fr 13 1/4 % - 13 1/2 %
US rates:
Bank prime rate 12.00 %
Fed funds 10 %
Treasury long bond 9 1/4 % - 9 1/2 %
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period March 7 to April 3, 1984 inclusive: 8.976 per cent.

Laird Group profits up £1.9m

Laird Group pretax profits rose from £19.1m to £21m last year on virtually unchanged sales of £305m. The total dividend is 2.8p, making a total of 3p, against 4.2p before. At the after-tax level, profits have been depressed by closure of £3.9m and a post-Budget deferred tax provision of £1m. But dividend cover is still 3.5 times.

GILL & DUFFUS pretax profits have jumped to £20.4m (£12.9m) for the year ended December 31 last. Sales rose to £1.25 billion (£1 billion) and a recommended final dividend of 6p brings the 1983 total to 10p (8.4p). *Tempus*, page 22

INTERIM PROFITS at Kwik Save Discount for the 26 weeks to February 25 have risen from £12.3m to £14.3m, on sales up from £268m to £309.5m. Earnings per share are 4.96p (3.94p) and the interim dividend rises from 1.15p to 1.3p. *Tempus*, page 22

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$380.20 pm \$379.25
close \$379.75 - \$380.25 (£266 - 266.50)
New York (latest): \$380.75
Kruggerand (per coin):
\$392 - \$393.50 (£274.75 - 275.75)
Sovereigns (new):
\$89.50 - \$90.50 (£62.75 - 63.50)
*Excludes VAT

Investigation if rescue package is agreed

Esal may face assets inquiry

By Philip Robinson

The top accountants Peat Marwick Mitchell will be appointed to conduct a thorough investigation of Esal Commodities if a rescue plan by bankers owed \$200 (£139m) is agreed next week.

The investigation will try and assess how much security there is available to the bankers.

Peat will advise a steering committee which the bankers will set up in an attempt to trade Esal out of its present problems. Details of Esal's worth is likely to be included in the formal rescue documents to be signed by the seven banks and 25 other creditors before a further \$43m is made available. Security for some of the

additional money, believed to be about \$18m, is to be provided by some of the other dozen or so companies which bear the Esal name. A total of 21 companies share common directors with Esal.

The companies' original board is no longer in Britain, although creditors are saying that even with the steering committee in place they are faced with no choice but to use those directors for new business.

Meanwhile, the Department of Trade and Industry is about to start investigations as to why Esal Commodities has not filed accounts with Companies



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Full Forenames.....

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Signature(s)..... (in the case of joint applicants all must sign)

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STOCK MARKET REPORT

BP shares surge to record

By Michael Clark

British Petroleum remained insurmountable yesterday as rumours swirled around the stock market that the group had struck rich in the South China Sea.

The shares surged to a record level with a 14p rise to 505p as investors on both sides of the Atlantic piled into the shares. BP has the biggest interest of any of the leading independents in the China Sea and has invested heavily. The rumours coincided with the news that a joint venture between Esso and Shell had discovered evidence of oil during their first test bore. Shell said the results will take several weeks to analyse and drilling will continue.

But a spokesman for BP last night denied the suggestions: "The rumours are completely without foundation. Drilling will not be completed for another few weeks", he said.

Shell greeted the news of its progress with a rise of 15p to 646p, but the rest of the oil sector showed only scattered improvements with prices closing below their best levels of the day.

Shares of Hanson Trust closed 2p higher at 199p, after 200p, as one leading firm of Promotions House, the travel related promotions group, confirmed yesterday it has sold its 20 per cent stake in Berkeley and Hay Hill Investments to Mr Clive Smith, chairman of Petrol. It now owns 10 per cent of Berkeley and 19 per cent of Amalgamated Estates and further deals are expected. Promotions House is now sitting on an estimated £1m and may decide to hit the acquisition trail yet again. The shares were unchanged at 20p.

brokers placed over 1 million shares at the 196p level. There was also a large buyer of 500,000 shares in BOC Group

after hours as the price advanced 8p to 380p. Dealers said the move bore the evidence of possible buying from New York, but this was later discounted.

The rest of the equity market made a scintillating start after the overnight performance on Wall Street, but appeared to run out of steam later in the day. The FT index ended the first leg of the long three week Easter account 6.6 higher at 895.2 having been 11.3 up earlier in the day.

Gilts staged an early attempt at a rally in line with the rest of the market, but the Government broker put paid to that with the issue of additional amounts of existing "top" stocks. They included £100m Treasury 3 per cent 1986 and £150m of Treasury 3 per cent 1987. At the long end of the market, gains of around 1/4 were replaced with falls of a similar amount. Shorts rallied and closed with rises of up to 1/4.

Woolworth continued to make headway after the agreed bid for Comet with a rise 3p to 513p. Market also advanced 8p to 228p. Curry's tipped as the next target for the luckless Mr Philip Harris of Harris Queensway, hardened 5p to 378p, while Harris Queensway lost an initial lead to close unchanged at 390p.

Muirhead advanced a further 2p to 166p still reflecting the sale of the United States group Tyco Laboratories's stake of 28 per cent earlier this week. The 2.4 million shares were placed by broker Cazenove at 150p a share with institutions and represents a sizable loss on Tyco's original investment.

Tyco bought its original investment for nearly £4.5m when the pound stood at £2.40 against the dollar. Since then the pound had fallen sharply and the shares had lost ground along with Muirhead's profitability. But the sale does open up other avenues. It means that with Tyco out of the way the ground has pulled clear of the recession.

Profit taking taking clipped 3p from Spear & Jackson at 150p after a week of intense speculation. Market pundits reckon the group could soon fall prey to a bid from Jenks & Cattel.

Two overseas companies are to take a controlling interest in Astra Industrial, whose interests stretch from property to snooker and bingo, was unchanged at 17 1/2 yesterday. Last month Mr Peter Dellar, of Charles Baynes, replaced Mr Dennis Dukes as chairman after buying his personal stake of 1m shares, or 2.3 per cent.

With the recent decline of interest and the recent decline of profits, Astra is now looked upon as the ideal shell situation for Mr Dellar and the rest of his colleagues at St Georges Laundry, now part of Spring Grove. One firm of brokers reckons the shares are now worth 30p.

Trieste, one of Britain's leading diamond processing groups. Shares of Trieste returned from suspension unchanged at a high of 62p after Asahi Diamond Industrial Company of Japan and Lieber & Solow of the US announced they were to subscribe for 2.6 million shares at 37p a share.

Equity turnover on April 12, was £305.31m (20,023 bargains). The number of British and Irish stocks traded was 167.8. Gilt bargains totalled 3,316.

Comet bid by Harris unlikely

By Jonathan Clare

Mr Phil Harris, the chairman of Harris Queensway, yesterday confirmed that he would not get involved in an auction for the Comet Group against Woolworth Holdings.

He said: "Harris does not believe that it would be in the interest of its shareholders to make an offer on terms significantly different from the £152m bid announced on Tuesday. Woolworth subsequently made a £177m counter-bid which was recommended by Mr Michael Hollingshead, Comet's chairman and holder of more than 30 per cent of the shares."

"Harris Queensway is therefore no longer contemplating an offer for Comet," Mr Harris added.

Mr Harris pointed out that the Woolworth bid could still fail and in that event he would be prepared to step back in. He had no fresh bids in the pipeline. "I haven't got an acquisition in mind," he said.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

The pound fluctuated between 1.4340 and 1.4240 before ending the day at 1.4300 (1.4310) against the dollar yesterday.

It was unchanged against the Deutschmark at 3.7525, Swiss franc at 3.1100, and yen at 321.00.

However, sterling's international value shed 0.2 at 79.9. The retail prices index made little impact.

After a slower start, the dollar gradually picked up on small European and American buying, helped by the latest US economic indicators, notably better than expected production figures.

MONEY MARKETS

A slight improvement in transatlantic rates after the US money supply and retail sales figures prompted an easier start in period rates yesterday, if only by the odd 1/2 of one per cent.

But business was slow and at the end of the session rates were hardly altered.

Interbank, overnight money hovered about 8 1/2 per cent for the most part, although volatile late trading saw rates fluctuate between 6 and 9 1/2 per cent - closing at the higher end.

Local authorities were only interested in taking money at the short end. Dollar rates eased on the back of the steeper-than-expected drop in the US money supply.

TEMPUS

Plain sailing expected for ABP sell-off

At a first glance Associated British Ports looks such a sound investment that it seems almost impossible to turn down the Government's offer to sell its remaining 48.5 per cent stake in the former nationalized British Transport Docks Board.

The company recently unveiled an impressive set of figures for its first year's trading as a private enterprise, overseas trade is set to increase by around 5 per cent and ABP's structure is such that its costs are covered by additional volume taken largely straight to profits. The company could handle a 50 per cent increase in capacity without altering its physical infrastructure.

The keen edge of privatization has also resulted in a trimmer, more efficient organization. In 1983 volume handled increased by 6 million tonnes bringing a £2m increase in turnover. Pretax profits, however, shot up by £6m.

In 1984 ABP should be capable of producing pretax profits of £20m and could eventually go as high as £40m without any significant financial surgery. If world trade, to which ABP's fortunes are inextricably linked, improves as it is promising to do, then such results are not simply pipe dreams.

ABP has another joker lurking up its sleeve in the form of the Freeports at Southampton and Cardiff. These could contribute another 10 per cent over the next five years. This bonus is overshadowed, however, by another wild card: the threat of industrial action.

The coal strike will have an impact on the 1984 performance and this will be more marked the longer the dispute goes on.

As important is the potential danger of an all-out dock strike if the Government's veiled threat to dismantle the 36-year-old dock labour scheme materializes. The unions say they will fiercely resist any change and a strike would severely damage ABP's short-term prospects.

Nevertheless, when applications for shares close on Tuesday, the offer seems certain to be fully subscribed, largely because institutional investors who only received reduced allotments when ABP was first privatized will want to

increase their holdings. The share price is saying unequivocally that the striking price will be well above the 250p minimum tender price.

According to brokers yesterday, institutional tenders could range up to the 295p - 300p level, including a 7p premium to reflect savings on interest and stamp duty. The price closed yesterday at 286p showing no change from Thursday, although at one stage the price went to 293p before slipping back again.

Individual investors are probably best advised to take a more relaxed view. A tender at around the present market rate or - for the smaller investor - at the striking price seems the best course. This time around, cheques from unsuccessful applicants will not be cashed, so it could still be well worth pitching in a lower tender in case the offer drops.

Kwik Save

Who would be a stock market high flyer in these dog days of tetchy retail analysts? Kwik Save Discount started the day selling on a pacey growth multiple of 19 times historic earnings, and capitalized at just under £140m.

By mid-afternoon, after interim profits for 1983-84 had slightly disappointed the top end of market estimates, some £4.5m had been carved off the market worth, the shares had been topped 6p to 180p, and the analysts were scaling down their full year forecasts.

The adverse market reaction stemmed from analysis of the net margin outcome. At 4.6 per cent of sales, pretax margins were slightly ahead of the interim percentage during 1982-83, as Kwik Save utilized its usual formula of deep discounting a select number of branded lines - perhaps a tenth of the normal complement - and concentrating on volume growth through new openings.

At the sales level, this formula certainly worked like magic. Interim turnover rose by 15.5 per cent, with price inflation contributing some 4.5 per cent; volume gains in existing stores chipping in around 2 per cent; and the balance generated by new openings.

But the analysts now complain that the formula is too rigid in terms of product range, so that Kwik Save will miss out on all the vogue growth areas

food retailing, like fresh food. They preferred to see rising pretax margins, as a sign that the group was capable of pushing into new territories, to justify the high multiple. Hence the savage, markdown on merely maintained profitability.

The Kwik Save board yawned yesterday at the market reaction, remarking blandly that anything different would have been disconcerting. The opening programme is proceeding apace. By the year end, a further 40 units may well have opened, bringing the total up to 385. The additional cost of hiring extra management trainees, seed corn for future expansion, has borne slightly on the profits.

Geographically the group still has loads of scope to expand, as it pushes deep into the South East, and the North East, while on products, Kwik Save has moved into wines and spirits, and has traded an extra £3m as a consequence. The Kwik Save formula looks to be intact with cash balances still around the £19m mark, and its flexibility evident in the fact that the group can trade from a backstreet 6,000 sq foot store, as well as from a jumbo footer.

At 180p, the target multiple is around 17, assuming the group makes £32m pretax in 1983-84.

Gill & Duffus

Do not take too much notice of the stock market's sniffling reaction to Gill & Duffus Group's results, which were really rather good.

The commodity trader benefited greatly from two very good months in the cocoa market at the end of last year and profits far exceeded what the company estimated it would make at the half-way stage. But the figures were too well signalled as being good at the beginning of the week, pushing the price up and yesterday's slip by 4p to 206p was just a technical reaction, despite a better than forecast dividend of 6p.

The group's view of this year is probably over-cautious, because while the first quarter was good it lacked at least some of the market volatility that makes big profits for commodity traders.

Sugar and grain trading in both the US and Europe continued to make profits despite the difficult markets

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N.B. It should be remembered that unit values can fall as well as rise. While past performance cannot necessarily be taken as a guide to the future, the skills of the management groups involved are clearly well above average.

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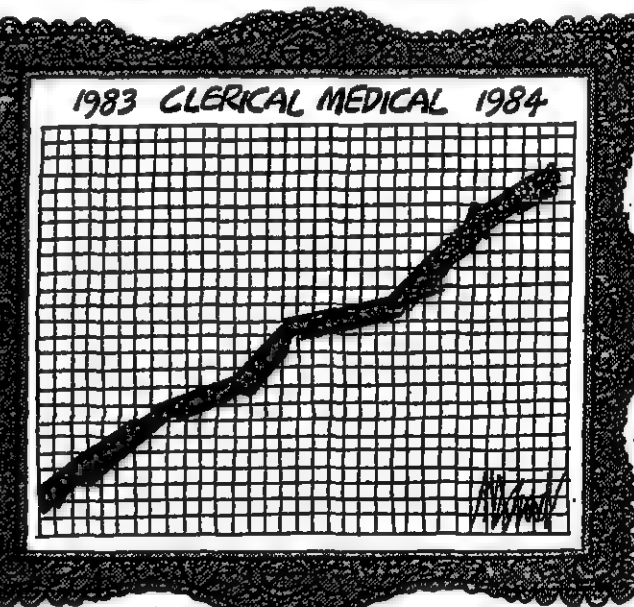
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CLERICAL MEDICAL · 1983

Our best year yet



Principal points from the Statement by the Chairman, Sir Douglas Morpeth

"I am glad to report that 1983 has been another very successful year... In April 1984 the Society intends to declare record bonuses for all holders of with-profits policies."

"New annual premium income increased... by 36% to a record £31.9 million."

"The Society benefited considerably from the strong market which has been established for low-cost endowment plans as a method of house purchase mortgage repayment..."

"In pensions also the Society had a very good year, with substantial increases in sales of our Selective Pension Plan. In addition, the Executive Investment Pension Plan which offers unit-linked investment policies to directors and senior employees proved very popular..."

Prospects for 1984

"The Society views the prospects for new business with confidence; we believe that our competitive position and high level of service will continue to ensure that we receive an increasing flow of new premium income."

Investment

"We reaped considerable advantage during 1983 from our policy... of increasing overseas investments: most world equity markets produced marked appreciation... the best returns were to be found in markets outside the United Kingdom... By the end of 1983 nearly 20% of policyholders' assets were invested overseas and our total portfolio had grown to £1,360 million."

Commission

"The efforts the Society has been making with a number of other offices to bring about voluntary agreement on the commissions paid throughout the life assurance industry have been well received... Unfortunately the agreement cannot be implemented until a larger number of offices have subscribed to its terms... The agreement should enhance the position of the independent insurance intermediary, by making it plain that commission is not a factor influencing the advice given."

A copy of the Report and Accounts is available on request from the Secretary.

Clerical Medical and the Budget

The removal of life assurance premium relief in the Budget does not affect our existing policyholders. Nor, of course, does it apply to our wide range of extremely tax-efficient pension plans. Looking to the future, people will still need to protect dependants, and Clerical Medical offers extremely cost-effective policies for doing so. As the Financial Times demonstrated on Saturday 17 March, our policies can still provide yields that are better than those currently available from such investments as National Savings and Building Society accounts.

The Secretary, Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Society, FREEPOST, 15 St. James's Square, London SW1Y 4YP. Telephone: 01-930 5474.

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UNIT PRICE UP 16% SINCE LAUNCH ON JANUARY 16, 1984

"Yet there appear to be pockets of inefficiency in the market, where an ordinary investor might hope for abnormal profits — if only there were some way to cash in on the inefficiency. Simply investing in small quoted companies is just such a market-beating strategy." *Lex Column, Financial Times 31st March 1984.*

Smaller companies are one of today's investment growth areas. Many operate in high technology or service sectors and can start up at moderate cost with a small workforce. What is more, staff are likely to be more committed, often owning a stake in the business. Many knowledgeable investors are buying-in on the ground floor of smaller companies they believe will be the household names of tomorrow.

Invest in tomorrow's household names today.

More than in virtually any other investment sector, sporting the smaller companies earmarked for success needs comprehensive research and expert assessment.

Inevitably there is much less research available on smaller companies than on the

bigger and better known ones. However, Touche Remnant has specialist expertise in the smaller companies sector and this expertise is reinforced by close contact with leading stockbrokers, bankers and other information sources.

Management Company

Touche Remnant Unit Trust Management Limited is the unit trust subsidiary of the Touche Remnant Group. The group manages over £2 billion for investment trusts, pension funds, unit trusts and private clients.

The Touche Remnant Group has considerable experience of investing in smaller companies through several of its specialist funds which have a large exposure to these smaller companies both listed and unlisted.

Investment spread

TR Smaller Companies Fund is invested in smaller companies considered of outstanding growth potential. To ensure that the effects of inflation or rapidly rising stock

markets do not restrict the choice of investments, the Fund invests in companies with a market capitalisation of up to 60% of the average market capitalisation of companies listed on The Stock Exchange, currently £50m. The Managers pay particular attention to companies quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market (USM) in which up to 25% of the Fund may be invested.

How to invest

To invest in the TR Smaller Companies Fund, please complete and return the coupon below. Alternatively, you may telephone your instructions to the Managers.

For your guidance, the price of units on Thursday 12th April 1984 was 29.0p. The estimated gross annual yield is 2.1%.

Remember, the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.



TOUCHE REMNANT TR Smaller Companies Fund

Fidelity

INTERNATIONAL

Change at Zurich

Zurich Insurance is improving its private car insurance rating and policy. But it is also increasing premiums between 3 and 5 per cent. District ratings have changed which means that some policyholders will pay less. Zurich has a scheme under which comprehensive policyholders are supplied with a new car where cars not more than a year old are stolen and not recovered, or damage costs more than 50 per cent of list price. In addition, policyholders aged over 50 are now entitled to a 10 per cent discount regardless of no-claims discount earned.

Higher cover limit

Friends' Provident is increasing the sum assured limit from £40,000 to £80,000 for its existing non-underwriting mortgage endowment applicants. In common with other life offices it is also introducing a question on health. Provided the applicant has not attended any clinic or hospital for tests or treatment in the past six months and is not expecting to do so in the future no further health questions will be asked. With the introduction of Mifras (Mortgage Interest Relief at Source) and the subsequent rush to switch to endowment-linked home loans, many insurers got caught with a lot of borrowers who were bad health risks. These people look for advantage of the facility to buy a life policy without evidence of good health.

Investment advice

A new edition of *More for Your Money* now available from the Association of Investment Trust Companies. This explains how investment trusts offer private investors the same advantages as large institutional investors by enabling them to take an interest in a

wide range of investments. For the new investor it explains the difference between unit trusts and investment trusts and how to use them. Send for a free copy to The Secretary, The Association of Investment Trust Companies, Freeport, London EC2B 2JL.

Bonds repayment

National Savings will repay 9½ per cent British Savings Bonds (Fourth Conversion Issue) at 104 per cent on August 15 next. A notice was being sent to holders yesterday, together with a repayment application form. Any holder who does not receive the form and notice within a reasonable time should contact the Bonds & Stock Office, Blackpool, Lancashire, FY3 9YP.

Holders of this issue who apply for repayment are due to receive a warrant for the amount of the bonds, plus a premium on 4 per cent on August 15. No further interest will be payable after that date.

Education guides

Banking Information Service (Education and Careers) has produced new or updated resource material which includes the completion of a series of books for 'A' Level Economics. Some of the titles include *A Guide to Monetary Policy*, *A Guide to the International Financial System*, *A Guide to the British Financial System*. Three video films explaining banking services, business finance and monetary policy are also available on a free-hire basis. Further information may be had from Jim Farlie, manager, Banking Information Service, 10 Lombard Street, London EC3V 9AT. Telephone: 01 626 9386.



M & G expands

Fund manager M & G has gone into the guaranteed income bond market with the issue of a five-year bond paying 8 per cent net of basic rate tax. When the income-bond matures investors will have the option to switch to one of M & G's existing bond funds at a 20 per cent discount on the initial charge. Details from M & G, Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ. Tel: 01 626 4588.

Theft claims rise

The British Insurance Association has announced that theft claims cost its members £27.6m during 1983, a 17 per cent increase over 1982. It was the smallest increase for 10 years.

However, theft of personal belongings under household and all-risks policies exceeded £200m for the first time, showing an increase of 24 per cent.

30-day debut

Chatham Reliance Building Society has introduced a new class of shares at an interest rate of 7.60 per cent, equal to 10.86 per cent gross. The net rate increases to 7.74 per cent if interest is added to the account each half year. These new Thirty Day shares allow for withdrawals at 30 days' notice without penalty, or earlier subject to the loss of 30 days' interest on the amount withdrawn.

Japanese rivals

Two new Japan-invested unit trusts, from Kleinwort Benson and the Fidelity stable, come to the market with good pedigrees. Kleinwort Benson's existing offshore Japan fund has shown a 783 per cent growth since its launch in 1974, while Fidelity's existing Japan fund is top performer in the one and two-year league tables.

But here the similarities stop because Kleinwort Benson takes a totally different view of the Japanese market, with its new Japanese Growth Fund, than Fidelity with its new Japan Special Situations Trust.

Fidelity is going for the export-based electrical stocks and will manage its fund aggressively, while these are precisely the shares that Kleinwort Benson's Mr Robert Prichard believes should be avoided.

The minimum investment in Fidelity's Japan Special Situations Trust is £500, while Kleinwort Benson's Japanese Growth Fund requires a minimum of £1,000.

High income scheme

As building society rates fall, investors dependent on interest for their income look around for alternatives and the unit trusts have not been slow to react. Midland Bank has just launched an Extra High Income Fund, with a monthly income facility if you have £2,000 or more to invest.

This bank already manages a Gilt and Fixed Interest trust, a High Yield trust and a straightforward income unit trust. Investors seeking monthly income will have their investment split among these three funds and the new Extra High Income Fund to produce an income distribution every month. Mr Norman Wilmer, of Midland Bank Unit Trust Managers, declared: "The importance of income to investors cannot be overestimated. The recent Budget changes in the field of personal finance benefit investors who will be attracted to seek income unit trusts which offer the best prospect of a real rate of return."

"Our aim is to provide a trust with an attractive yield from a mixed portfolio which will give stability from the fixed-interest content and prospects for increasing income and capital appreciation from a diversified range of equities."

New business fund

A new business expansion fund (the sort on which you get tax relief at your highest rate) on up to £40,000 invested is launched this week by Charterhouse J Rothschild - its second venture of this kind.

Charterhouse plans to raise £7.5m to put into unquoted companies. The fund's first 1983-84 venture of £3m - like most other BES funds - was heavily oversubscribed and was fully

invested by the end of the 1983-84 tax year. Investors in that fund will be eligible for full tax relief.

The first fund put money into eight companies, of which three were management "buyouts," two were start-up companies and five involved other BES funds in syndicates led by Charterhouse.

"Few companies are yet taking the opportunity to reduce high and costly borrowings by utilizing the relatively cheap finance available from BES funds," said Mr Richard Duncan, managing director of Charterhouse Business Expansion Fund. Details: Charterhouse J Rothschild, 65 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1A 2DR. Tel: 248 4000.

Art and VAT

Several readers have asked for more details on VAT on works of art, mentioned in last week's article on paintings.

We said that there was no VAT added while buying a work of art more than 100 years old.

This is correct. But things are more complicated behind the scenes. Although a gallery price tag on a painting will not have VAT levied on it, the dealer has to pay VAT on the difference between his buying price and selling price and this will be buried in his selling price. He does not want his customers to know the size of his mark-up.

This is done under the "second-hand" scheme which gives this special concession to dealers who mainly buy from the public and hence cannot claim back VAT.

But if a dealer has bought a painting from a VAT-registered source and can claim back the VAT then the painting will be sold outside the second-hand scheme and will bear full VAT.

BANK CHARGES

Midland's surprise for charity

Midland Bank which calls itself "the listening bank" has earned the wrath of a charity for suddenly imposing bank charges after years of free banking.

The Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association which runs workshops, day centres and group homes, receives hundreds of thousands of pounds in grants every year and has always been in the black.

Then a sum of £101.07 was debited from the charity's account as bank charges. At first it thought there must have been an error, but Mr Gordon Tillyer, the manager of Midland Bank in Kingsland High Street, Hackney, confirmed that in future the charity would have to bear bank charges of around £1,000 a year. This would be tempered by an allowance for notional interest earned on money in the account.

Mr John Wilder, the director of the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association, complained of the "cavalier treatment" to Sir Donald Barron, chairman of Midland. "In spite of our long association and without prior discussion we unexpectedly received a bank statement listing charges. While seeking to maximize your profit out of a charitable organization, you have not even seen fit to apologize for the way this was done," he wrote.

The Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association has now taken its account across the road to the National Westminster Bank.

NatWest has agreed to give the charity free banking as long as a balance of £1,500 is maintained in the account. "We often had more than that in the Midland account anyway," Mr Wilder commented.

Midland did apologize later for applying the charges without any discussions. But it said the bank was losing money on the account because of the volume of business conducted through it. The bank manager's aim was to cover his costs and not to make a profit from a registered charity.

A Midland spokesman said that charitable giving by the bank was entirely separate from its banking business. "We do contribute to charities centrally, but a charity account is just a normal business account. Does the gas board or the electricity board give charities free services?"

The National Westminster Bank said that charity accounts were considered individually and each was a matter for negotiation.

Tom Tickell

Vivien Goldsmith

Taking the terrors out of tax returns

The midnight knock at the door is not the worry in Britain at the moment. It is the morning flop through the letter-box, as the annual tax return hits the doormat which really frightens people. Today, marks the start of the new tax year and more than 10 million of these returns - form IIP to their friends - are going out this month.

The one comfort of just paying basic rate tax on a basic salary, with no complications, is that tax returns only appear once every three years. What is more they are relatively simple when they do.

Taxation with a human face is this year's motto for the Inland Revenue. The form, and the notes going with it have been redesigned, so that humans as well as accountants can understand them.

Of course, you can always leave the return to moulder in the compost of bills, letters and old envelopes, which cover many people's desks. But if you

delay too long, your tax office may put you on "emergency" coding. That means that they only set the single person's tax allowance against tax, whatever your circumstances.

In the past that was a much more potent threat than it is now. Tax relief on mortgages, and life insurance policies (taken out before the Budget) now come net of tax relief via payments to the lender or insurer, and not through the tax system. But the longer you delay filling in the return, the worse the chore becomes.

The form has various different sections - applying to particular forms of income. Schedule E covers any funds you receive from rents, while Schedule D applies to the self-employed. If you are self-employed, unless your affairs are simple, or you are a wizard with figures, the accountant can ensure that you postpone paying your tax bills (by

choosing the most advantageous date for your personal tax year) and knows how far you can go with expenses, too. What is more, you can even claim his expenses against tax. Life is much easier if you work for someone else, though either way you will notice that the tax allowances quoted are

Taxation with a human face is this year's motto for the Inland Revenue

those for the tax year - ending April 5. That is standard. The forms are printed long before the Budget, so that is inevitable, and the figures will be corrected automatically.

Broadly, the system taxes couples as a unit. Husbands are responsible for their wives' tax bills, though any woman at

work has her own tax allowance, and tax is deducted at source.

You can always choose to be taxed separately - and an article on the possibilities and advantages appears next week. But whatever you decide, a wife's investment income is always treated as though it were her husband's income. Whom God hath joined together no tax office will split asunder.

Men are legally bound to declare their wives' income from savings. Ironically, there is no law which forces wives to tell them what the figures are.

Incidentally, a lot of income from investments reaches you tax-paid anyway. That applies to interest from building societies, and from dividends - and from the next tax year, starting in April 1985, the same will go for interest on bank deposits. But remember that covers basic rate tax only. If you pay tax at higher rate there will be a further bill to come.

That is a general problem, but there is another. The Chancellor may have abolished Investment Income Surcharge, but that only applies to the extra 15 per cent levy on investment income over £7,100 received in the last tax year.

So much for saving. Once you fill in the form, it goes back to your tax office. If there has been a big change, which affects your tax position, the Inland Revenue will tell your employer to alter your tax coding.

So how can you tell whether that coding is accurate? By looking at the tax code - a letter followed by three figures - on your pay slip.

The letters show your coding. If the letter L appears, for instance, it shows that you just have the single person's allowance - or work as a married woman. The married man's personal allowance produces an H in the coding. The letter T shows that you want to keep details of your life to yourself, so only the tax inspector - and not the wages department - knows which allowance you collect.

The three figures have their meaning too, though to find it you have to add two noughts on the end. They will indicate the amount of tax free income you



are allowed before you start paying tax. The codes for the new tax year first appear in May. The figure 200, for instance, will show that you are only getting the basic single person's allowance of £2,005.

But how much tax should you be paying? Take that allowance from your pretax salary, and you will find how much of your salary is taxable. That gives you a flying start to working out the figures.

That is how everything should work, but inevitably there are occasional hiccups. Live in London and you will find that offices in Bradford, Edinburgh or Cardiff work out your coding.

If you want to check details with your particular tax office,

your department will have the address and telephone number. Ringing them is easier than writing, though be sure you write down the name of the person you speak to at the other end. Otherwise you can be bounced backwards and forwards indefinitely.

There are 60 tax offices throughout Britain (though with characteristic perversity the telephone book insist on listing them under Inland Revenue).

If you bring all your details there, people at the other side of the desk can get in touch with your own tax inspector, and indeed ask for the papers to be sent to them if need be. What they will not do is tell you how to minimise your tax bill.

Tom Tickell

Vivien Goldsmith

AN OFFER FROM M&G

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READ THIS TABLE BEFORE INVESTING	AMERICAN SMALLER Co's	AUSTRALASIAN AND GENERAL	COMPOUND GROWTH	DIVIDEND	GOLD & GENERAL	RECOVERY
Launch date and price equivalent	July '83 50p	Feb '73 50p	Dec '68 50p	May '84 50p	May '83 50p	May '69 16p
Price of Income units at 11th April '84 and estimated current gross yield	39.5p 0.38%	100.7p 0.94%	299.9p* 2.65%	260.8p 5.76%	58.0p 2.38%	221.2p 3.38%
% change in Fund offer price since launch	-21.0%	+90.0%	+499.8%	+421.6%	+16.0%	+1282.5%
% change in FT All Share Index over same period	-7.4%***	+97.5%**	+205.3%*	+385.3%	+5.2%††	+249.5%

*Only Accumulation units available with Compound Growth. NB FT All Share Index does not include reinvested income. **Australian All Ordinaries Index. ***Standard & Poors Industrial Index. ††Notional launch price for Income units because only Accumulation units available at Fund launch. †††FT All Share Index.

Prices and yields appear daily in the F.T. An initial charge of 5% is included in the offer price; an annual charge of a maximum of 1% of each Fund's value - currently ¾% - plus VAT is deducted from gross income (currently ½% for Dividend, although it is the Managers' intention to increase this to a maximum of 1% with unitholders' consent, if it will be their intention, however, to restrict this to ¾% for the present). All the above Funds, except Compound Growth, are available with both Income and Accumulation units. Distributions for Income units are made on the appropriate dates net of basic rate tax and are reinvested for Accumulation units to increase the value of the units. You can buy or sell units on any business day. Contracts for purchase or sale will be due for settlement 2 or 3 weeks later. Remuneration is payable to accredited agents; rates are available on request. All the Funds are wider-range securities and are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

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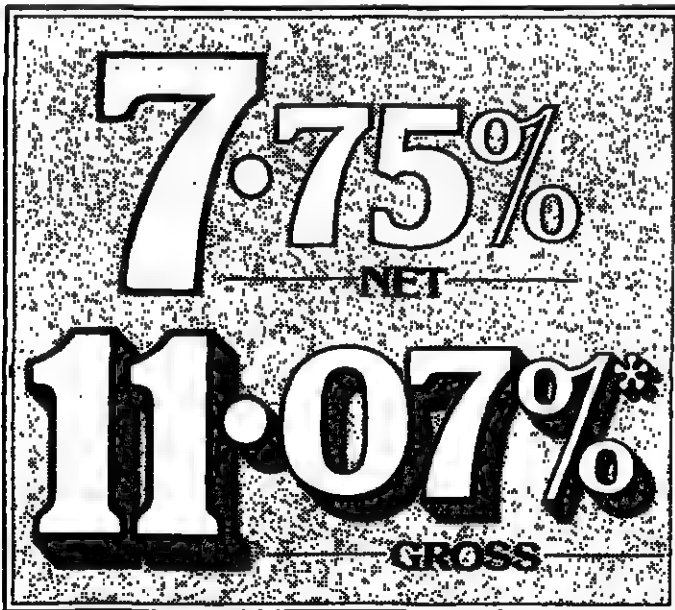
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FAMILY MONEY

MORTGAGES

House prices poised for 12% rise

Next weekend will see the house hunters in force as they take advantage of the Easter holiday to look at properties. "We are about to go into the nesting season," said Mr Stuart Gowans of the Woolwich Equitable Building Society. "Demand for home loans is particularly buoyant".

With mortgage money freely available, the spring rush to move house is likely to be more frenetic than usual and building societies are predicting a 10 to 12 per cent rise in house prices over the coming year. "We estimate a rise of 10 per cent for 1983 and would expect prices to go up by 12 to 14 per cent during the current year - but certainly more than 10 per cent," Mr Gowans said.

The building societies are flush with funds. Figures released yesterday show a net inflow of £729m - down on the previous month's total of £954m, but still more than sufficient to meet mortgage demand. Only once in the past nine months have net inflows dropped below the £700m required to fund lending and societies' coffers are full to overflowing.

Demand for home loans varies from society to society and different branches of the same society report wide variations in application levels. "We have a two-to-three week waiting list but that is probably because the Woolwich, in common with the Nationwide, doesn't operate mortgage differentials," Mr Gowans said.

It is rumoured that some building societies charging more than the "advised" rate of 10.25 per cent are offering commission to mortgage brokers who bring in business.

Certainly, the figures for house prices seem to indicate that in London and the South-east, the large differentials being

charged by some societies are pushing borrowers into the arms of the banks.

Mr Brian Firmin of Abbey National said: "It is difficult to understand why our figures show an apparent drop in house prices in some areas unless it is because borrowers in places like London, where loans tend to be larger than average, are going to the banks".

"Demand for mortgages is picking up to quite a substantial degree and we think we will see house prices going up in most areas. The market is very buoyant, but we are confident we can meet demand for loans and we have boosted the mortgage allocations."

Having wrestled with the complexities of Miras (mortgage interest relief at source), home buyers are now faced with new problems. Which is the cheapest method of buying a house? The removal of life assurance premium relief (LAPR) has altered all the sums and although the endowment linked method may turn out to be a better buy than a straight repayment loan over the long term, there is no doubt that, without tax relief on premiums, it is now more expensive than the conventional repayment mortgage.

Our tables show the after tax relief costs of the three methods of house purchase. Insurance and pension quoted were supplied by Norwich Union which has one of the most competitive low-cost endowments, and turns in a good performance on pensions too. The figures for a straight repayment loan will be even lower than those in our table if you borrow from one of the high street banks or the Halifax building society where they operate the "increasing net monthly repayment" system rather than the less advanced

laguous "constant net repayment".

With constant net repayments - the system operated by most building societies - the tax relief remains level throughout the period of the loan. Before the introduction of homebuyers' repayments were low in the early years increasing as the loan was repaid and the interest element declined. This is the system still operated by the banks and the Halifax.

For the self-employed (or anyone in a job without a pension scheme) there is no doubt that best value for money is the pension linked home loan. For the 60 per cent taxpayer, the net cost is lower than the straight repayment loan - although you will have to wait for your tax relief on the pension premiums, until you have filed your tax returns.

With repayment loans now looking more attractive than endowment ones, building societies have seen a fall in demand for endowment linked loans.

This view is echoed by the mortgage brokers whose staple business is insurance linked loans. Mr Paul Marks of insurance brokers Chase de Vere said: "The situation has been exaggerated, but people are now saying they don't know whether they want to go ahead with the endowment linked loans."

"The trouble with the pension linked loans which are still attractive is that some building societies are charging an extra 1 per cent on these."

Homebuyers opting for this method would be well advised to shop around as there are still plenty of societies just as anxious for the commission on the pension policies as on the life business - which will lend at only a 0.5 per cent differential.

Lorna Bourke

MONTHLY COST OF A REPAYMENT MORTGAGE - 35-YEAR-OLD MALE - £35,000 LOAN OVER 25 YEARS

	30% £	40% £	50% £	60% £
Net monthly mortgage repayment at 10.25%	218.70	193.08	167.46	141.84
Monthly mortgage protection premium	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00
Total net monthly cost	225.70	200.08	174.46	148.84
Residual benefit	none	none	none	none

The repayment figures assume that monthly payments are made on a constant net repayment basis with tax relief at the basic rate being applied under Miras. Higher rate tax relief will therefore be calculated separately on a decreasing basis. If the entire monthly repayment is calculated on a net monthly increasing basis (the system the Halifax and most of the banks use) then the initial monthly repayments will be lower, rising in later years.

MONTHLY COST OF A LOW COST ENDOWMENT LINKED MORTGAGE - 35-YEAR-OLD MALE - £30,000 LOAN OVER 25 YEARS

	30% £	40% £	50% £	60% £
Net monthly interest payments at 10.75%	188.08	161.25	134.33	107.50
Monthly low cost endowment premium	43.60	43.60	43.60	43.60
Total net monthly cost	231.68	204.85	177.93	151.10
Residual benefit estimated surplus	£7,832	£7,832	£7,832	£7,832

*This takes no account of terminal bonuses on the policy, which at today's rates would amount to a further £15,054.

MONTHLY COST OF A PENSION LINKED LOAN - 35-YEAR-OLD MALE - £30,000 LOAN OVER 25 YEARS

	30% £	40% £	50% £	60% £
Net monthly interest payments at 10.75%	188.08	161.25	134.33	107.50
Net monthly pension premiums (£226)	46.38	39.75	33.13	26.50
Net monthly life assurance (£226A)	6.30	5.40	4.50	3.60
Total net monthly cost	240.76	206.40	171.96	137.60
Residual pension	£15,606 pa	£15,606 pa	£15,606 pa	£15,606 pa
Residual cash sum after repayment of loan	£21,756	£21,756	£21,756	£21,756

Pension and insurance quotes supplied by Norwich Union

Scottish Life Investments

INSURANCE FUNDS

	Net Monthly	Net Monthly	Net Monthly
Managed Property	99.2	104.5	104.5
UK Equity	102.0	107.4	107.4
European	105.5	111.1	111.1
International	101.3	106.7	106.7
Fixed Interest	95.9	100.7	100.7
Index Linked	98.1	103.3	103.3
Deposits	93.3	100.6	100.6
Other	100.0	105.3	105.3
Net Managed Property	95.6	100.7	100.7
Net UK Equity	103.5	109.1	109.1
Net European	107.4	113.1	113.1
Net International	103.4	108.8	108.8
Net Fixed Int	95.9	100.7	100.7
Net Index Lkd	98.7	103.0	103.0
Net Deposits	93.9	101.1	101.1

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BCCI	8 1/8%
Citibank Savings	8 1/8%
Consolidated Trds	9 1/8%
Continental Trust	8 1/8%
C. Hoare & Co	8 1/8%
Lloyds Bank	8 1/8%
Midland Bank	8 1/8%
Net Westminster	8 1/8%
TSB	8 1/8%
Williams & Glyn's	8 1/8%

† Mortgage Base Rate

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£20,000, 9 1/4%; £20,000 and
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Amount available for investment £

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TAXATION

Redress and the Revenue

The Inland Revenue is not renowned for its generosity but, unknown to most people, it has the facility to give compensation to taxpayers for expenses incurred as a result of unreasonable behaviour by a member of the Revenue's staff.

The Revenue is swift to point out that compensation will only be paid in fairly extreme cases, that the payment is totally at its discretion, and that there is no question of these payments being a taxpayer's right. In other words, even if you are put to additional expense which eventually proves to be unnecessary, there is no guarantee that you will receive compensation.

The scheme, which is laid down as part of the Inland Revenue's policy, dates back to 1975 when it was announced by Sir Norman Price, then chairman of the Board. His statement was suitably vague and went along the lines that, when someone from the Revenue does something which no responsible person would reasonably have done, and as a consequence of this action the taxpayer incurs additional expense, then the Board will

consider making compensation. There is little guidance as to what constitutes unreasonable actions but it could be argued that no responsible person would raise a tax assessment of £3,000 when in reality it turns out to be £300.

The question of compensation is particularly pertinent in the context of the cost of complying with personal tax obligations. It is clearly a subject of which the Government is well aware. Mr John Moore, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, announced in Parliament last week that the Inland Revenue would be lending its assistance to a research team from Bath University which is planning to make a survey of the costs to individual taxpayers of meeting their income tax and capital gains tax requirements.

One of those costs is the tax advice which is almost essential for taxpayers with anything other than the most simple financial affairs. It has long been a complaint of the accountancy profession that their fees for personal taxation advice cannot be offset against the tax liability.

Mr Philip Hardman, a tax partner with the accountants Thornton Baker, pointed out an additional problem which taxpayers have because their accountants fees are not allowable against tax.

He said: "There have been cases where the Revenue has disagreed with someone's taxable income and said they would go to the Commissioners unless there was an uplift. Rather than pay the accountant's fees which he would need to defend himself (which are not allowable), the taxpayer has agreed to the uplift and paid the extra tax."

Mr Hardman is also concerned about the costs of pursuing cases in the courts. Too many taxpayers are put off taking their differences with the Inland Revenue further than the Commissioners, even when they have won at that stage.

The cards are distinctly stacked in the Revenue's favour but the facility it has to pay compensation is one which the taxpayer could make more use of to redress the balance.

Ian Griffiths

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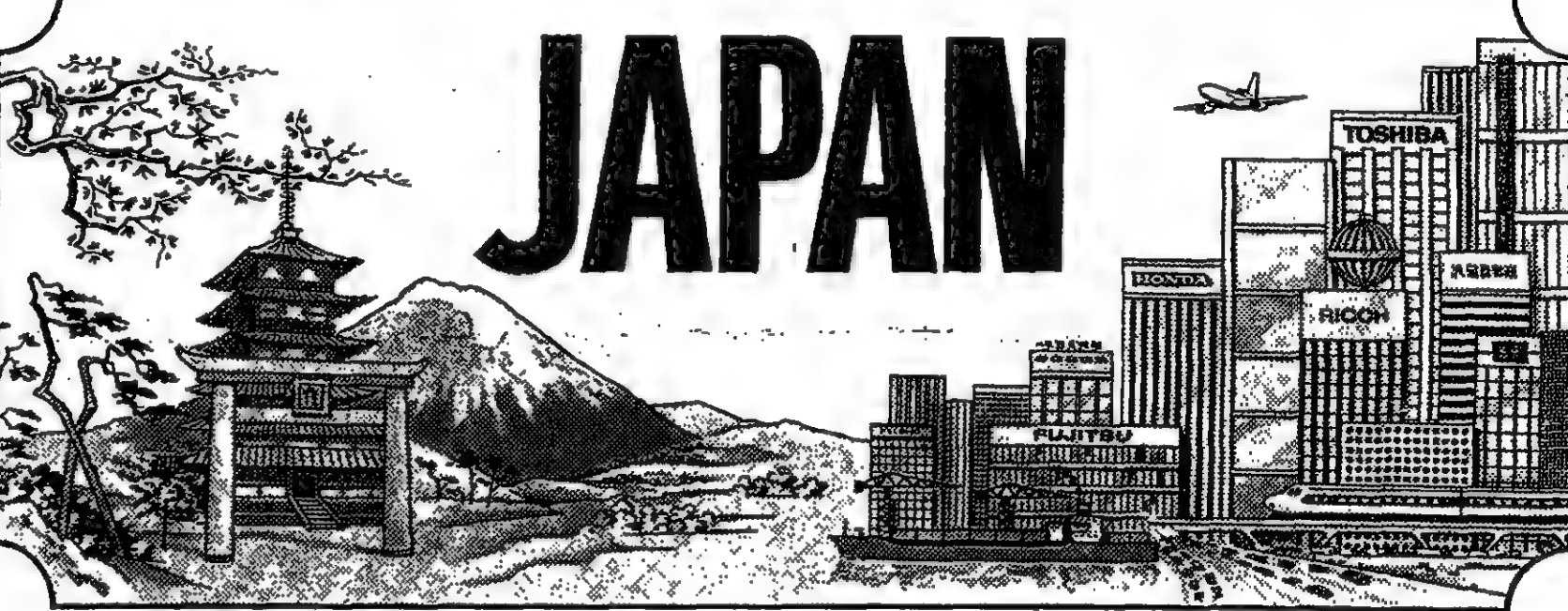
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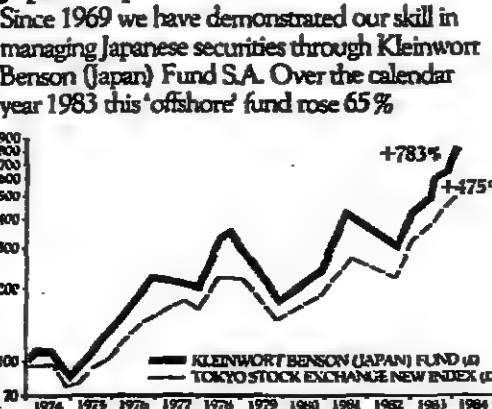


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LETTER

Pension and home loans

From Mr Denis Taylor
Sir, I was very interested in your article on pension-linked home loans (Family Money, March 24). The only problem I found when arranging such a mortgage was that none of the insurance companies wanted to know at 10.75 per cent.

Most of them argued that, since I was having the advantage of the pension plan they, too, wanted an advantage and, in fact, I ended up paying Scottish Mutual 13.75 per cent, which I trust has now been reduced by 1 per cent due to the recent reduction in interest rates.

Yours faithfully
Denis Taylor
5 Farm Lane
Purley
Surrey

US fund launch

Aitken Hume Funds (Management) is launching a unit trust today that will invest exclusively in America's largest and growing corporations.

The initial yield of the Aitken Hume American Majors Fund is expected to be 2 per cent. The minimum investment is £500 and the fixed price initial offer which closes on April 30, is 50p a unit. The fund has a 5.25 per cent initial charge and a 1.5 per cent annual charge. Further information from Aitken Hume (Telephone: 01-638 6011).

Every unit trust has its price tag but if you are a good customer it is always worth trying to negotiate a discount. It is not like asking the sales assistant at Marks and Spencer or Sainsbury for a special price - more like shopping in a street market.

Most unit trust companies have no rules about discounts but if you are spending £5,000 or more it is always worth asking for a discount.

What you are offered will depend on "the box". If the company has had a lot of redemptions of a particular unit trust and there is not a terrific demand for the units, then "the box" will be full. The company has the choice of passing on the units to a broker or an individual - at a discount or liquidating them. That would involve sinking the units out and may involve selling some of the fund's stocks.

Another factor which will influence what sort of deal you are offered is whether you approach the company direct or come via a broker who takes a 1% per cent or 3 per cent commission. It goes without saying that it is better to go the company direct if you are decided upon a particular investment.

For instance G.T. will offer discounts for investments of

UNIT TRUSTS

Shop around for a little discount on the big buys

£25,000 or more from an individual directly but only on investments over £100,000 via a broker. The discount is discretionary but should be at least one or two per cent for a direct investment.

If you have a broker on the lower commission rate, the discount should be about 1½ per cent but just ¾ per cent to 1 per cent with a high commission broker.

But the last word from G.T. is: "If you come to us direct with £15,000 it is always worth asking for a discount."

'If you come to us direct with £15,000 it is worth asking for a discount'

Other unit trust companies such as Hill Samuel and Arbuthnot say that a direct approach with £5,000 will merit consideration for a discount.

Arbuthnot confirms that someone with £5,000 to invest could expect a discount of about 1 per cent while someone with £20,000 could expect 1½ per cent.

Framlington, unlike most companies, has formalized its discount policy. If you go to it with £15,000 it will offer a 1½ per cent discount.

Brannan takes an "it all depends" attitude but says that someone with £10,000 to invest would get a discount of at least 1 per cent.

Henderson also gives no automatic discounts. But someone with £20,000 to spend would get a 1 per cent discount. "Not very generous, are we?"

But Montagu Investment management wants to see six figure sums before it will talk about discounts.

Miss Audrey Head, of the Unit Trust Association, points out that every deal must be treated on its merits.

"If everyone got a discount, then prices overall would have to rise and that would not help anyone," she said.

It would be madness to choose a unit trust by the size of the discounts on offer but once you have decided on a unit there is no harm in trying your luck if you have a tidy sum to invest. If you have just hundreds to invest rather than thousands the answer will almost certainly be "no".

Vivien Goldsmith

NI INCREASE

Bill for £1,200 out of taxed income for top earners

The one inevitable thing about National Insurance contributions is that they go up every April... and this year's rises are now already with us. For "top earners" the bill in 1984/85 will be almost £1,200, and that out of already taxed income.

In practical terms, the rises mean that up to an extra £1.35 a week may have to be found.

This year, for a change, it is only those on higher incomes who are being hit. There is no increase in the percentage deduction so there is no increase for those earning under £235 a week in most cases.

This year, the rate of deduction from pay stays the same at nine per cent. However, the earnings ceiling - the amount over which no extra contributions have to be paid - is going up from its present £235 to £250 a week.

At the other end of the scale, the amount of earnings below which contributions do not have to be paid goes up from £32.50 to £34 a week. However, not paying national insurance means not getting any benefits.

The changes will mean that a "top" earner (someone with

more than £12,000 a year) has to pay just under £1,200 in national insurance out of his pre-tax income. His weekly contribution becomes £22.50 - a 270 increase.

People in employers' pension schemes which are contracted out of the state pension arrangements are also affected. A change in the way contributions are calculated - means that everyone here has to pay more, but in many cases only a few pence. The maximum rise here is £1.07 a week, the new contribution will be £17.86.

There is some welcome relief for married women with the right to pay the lower rate contributions. Only those whose pay is over £235 are affected.

The self-employed, on the other hand, do not escape. Both the flat-rate weekly stamp and their earnings-related levy are up. The stamp rises by just 20p a week to £4.60. The profit-linked part of their national insurance payment stays at 6.3 per cent, but is added to profits between £3,950 and £13,000 a year. Taken together, these changes will mean increases of up to £64 a year.

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FAMILY MONEY edited by Lorna Bourke

SMALL COMPANY INVESTMENT

USM and OTC appeal continues despite risks of failure and thin markets

Opportunities to invest in new issues and smaller companies have been extended significantly over the last three years through the introduction of the Unlisted Securities Market by the Stock Exchange, and by the growth of the Over the Counter Market, a new market outside the control of the Stock Exchange.

Trading began on the USM in November 1980. Already more than 200 companies are quoted and the market is growing rapidly. Some 60 of these companies entered by way of "introduction" as they were already widely held and did not require new capital. Several had previously traded under Rule 163, the Stock Exchange's occasional dealing rule, which is an informal and unregulated mechanism by which unquoted shares can be dealt in. The majority, however, entered the market by way of a public issue and, while some 30 were "offer for sale", in much the same way as a new listing, most companies raising new capital on USM entry did so by way of "placing".

The problem with a placing is that the public have relatively little opportunity to participate, as 75 per cent of shares get placed with institutions, leaving only 25 per cent with the jobbers for the public to buy. This tends to result in a thin after-market and hence the USM has tended to be relatively volatile.

A large number of companies entering the USM are at a relatively early stage in their development. The market was set up to encourage entry of younger companies and as a source of development capital, and only a three-year trading record is required for market entry. The risks and rewards of investing in high-growth new companies are commensurately higher. If you pick the right company, growth could be rapid with strong returns, but equally the risk of failure may be high and a company may not continue its early growth.

Many companies entering the USM are in high technology - electronics and computer companies are commonplace, several trading on demanding price earnings ratios. Equally, service industry companies are abundant with sectors such as

retailing, leisure, financial services and advertising being popular.

Interesting new issues include companies like Asprey, the jewellers, Fitch & Co, the design consultants, Kennedy Brooks, restaurants and Michael Page, the recruitment agency. The opportunity for the public to participate in companies such as these had previously scarcely existed. The Stock Exchange is to be congratulated on its initiative in successfully setting up this second-tier market.

Dealing in USM shares is the same as dealing in listed shares and can be done through any stockbroker; however, because of the relatively small amounts of shares in public hands it can be difficult to get hold of certain stocks.

Before the introduction of the USM there were about 400 companies trading under Rule 163, but since then the number has reduced as the more frequently traded companies have transferred across to the USM. Even so, there are still more than 200 companies traded under this rule. Shares

can be purchased through a stockbroker, but can only be obtained on a matched bargain basis. The Stock Exchange has indicated an unwillingness to allow frequent dealing under this rule, as it sees the USM to be the proper place for this. Hence trading under this rule does not really represent a market and the price has to be fixed each time a bargain is struck. Each bargain also has to receive formal approval by the Stock Exchange, although this will normally be granted.

While the USM has developed, there has been a parallel development of the Over the Counter Market (OTC), outside Stock Exchange jurisdiction. This follows developments in the US where the OTC market is popular. Some 30,000 US companies are traded in this way, compared with only 4,000 New York and American Stock Exchange companies. Some very large US corporations such as Hoover, Xerox, Polaroid and Mellon National have used this market during their development.

Growth of the OTC in Britain has been rapid since trading began, with around 120 companies being dealt in, although the market is still small compared with the 2,200 companies listed on the Stock Exchange.

The OTC market is operated by licensed dealers in securities and, while there are more than 400 licensed dealers so far, only a handful have started dealing in shares "over the counter". Two main approaches have developed, the free market and the controlled market.

At present some 100 companies are dealt in on the free market. The major dealer is Harvard Securities and certain of the other dealers, Afor, Chartwell and Fox Milton, have been set up by people previously with Harvard. Harvard has concentrated on development capital, with typical investments being of the order of £300,000-£2m.

The OTC dealers operate through having their own private lists of non-discretionary clients, which often run into tens of thousands of potential investors who have requested to

be circulated with information and prospectuses on companies seeking funds through a share placing. It is up to the investors to decide whether to take up each share offered.

The dealer acts as a market maker in each company's shares, quoting a buy and sell price typically differing by a margin of 10 per cent or so. Dealers other than the issuing house may be prepared to create a market in the more popular shares and sometimes there may be three or four dealers in one company's shares which assists in creating a good market. To deal all you need to do is phone a dealer in the share you want and ask him to quote you the rate - don't state whether you are a buyer or seller until you have the price.

Some dealers have been criticised for holding positions in client stocks for the impact this could have on their objectivity. Certain others, such as Hill Woolgar and United Trust Credit, see themselves more as issuing houses than as dealers, but they will create an after-market in share issues of clients' companies.

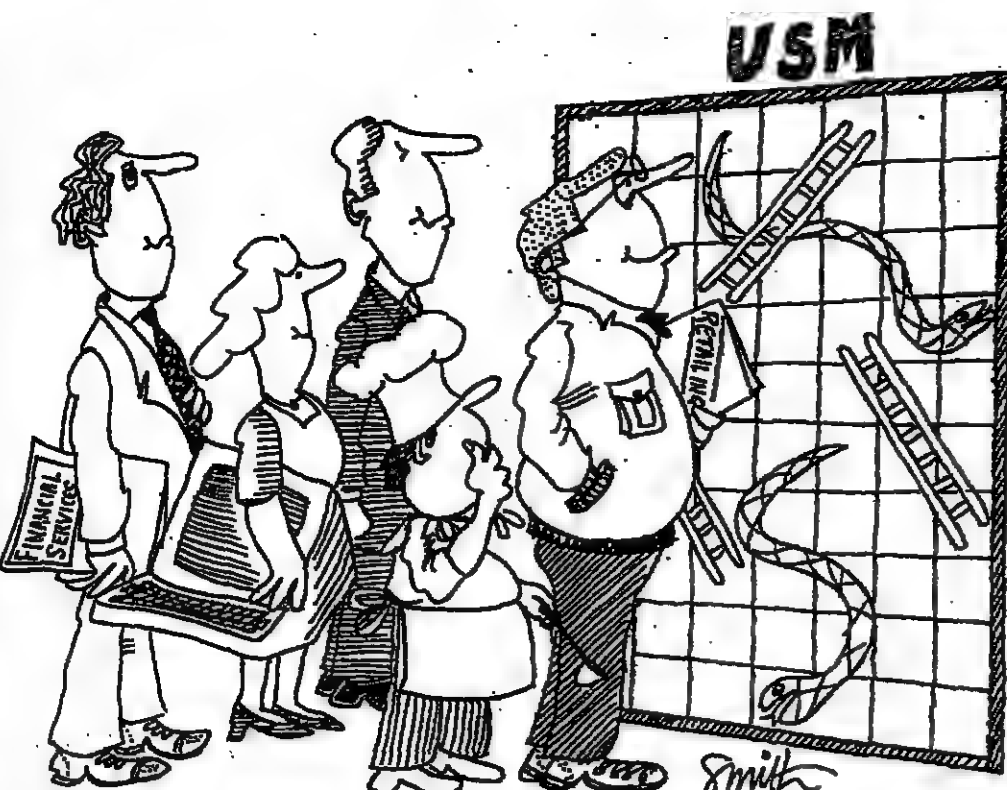
restricted market, the public can deal in shares of these companies through Granville.

The OTC is certainly here to stay and growth should be rapid. OTC companies are exciting - often venture capital with high risks but potentially high returns. The market is likely to be given further stimulus by the Business Expansion Scheme as qualifying companies can be dealt in on the OTC, whereas they are not at present permitted to be dealt in on the full Exchange or the USM.

Information on OTC shares is becoming more readily available. Prices of free market companies are circulated on a weekly "pink" price list prepared by Prior Harwin, licensed dealers, and Granville publish their prices in the *Financial Times*. A number of OTC dealers publish monthly newsletters covering the shares they trade in.

Lack of regulation is a potential problem and as the market grows this will have to be dealt with. Already there are two competing self-regulating bodies: NASDIM (National Association of Security Dealers and Investment Managers) and BIDS (British Institute of Dealers in Securities). Whether they are able to control the growth of the market remains to be seen.

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Vivien Goldsmith

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